



Shojo Beat Manga

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**Lovely★
Complex**

Story & Art by

Aya Nakahara

12



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I'll Love You Even If I Become a Star .. 133

Glossary 179

The Story So Far. . .

Risa and Ôtani are their class's lopsided comedy duo...and they've become a couple! Now they face a new problem: their plans for the future. Ôtani starts prepping for the entrance exams for a teachers' college while Risa works part-time at a family restaurant. On the day before his exams, Ôtani gets kicked out of his house because his entire family has come down with the flu. With nowhere to go, he crashes at Risa's house and wakes up just minutes before the exams. He hurries out, but a heavy snowfall has everything backed up. He almost gives up before Risa reminds him that the other people taking the exams will also be slowed down by the snow. She rushes him to the test site...

♥ To really get all the details, check out *Lovely Complex* Vol. 1-11, available at bookstores everywhere!!

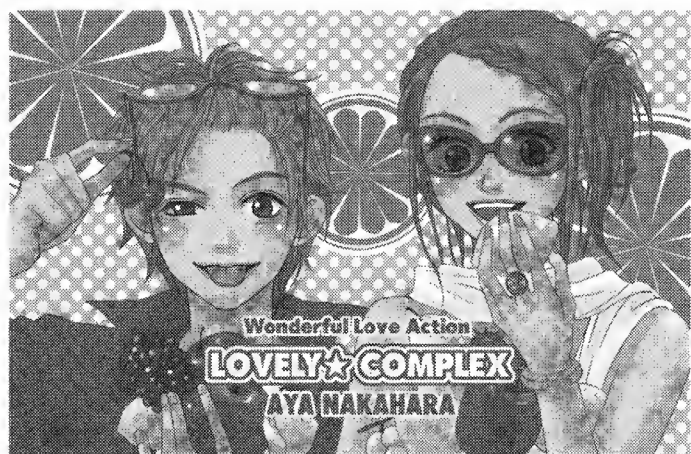
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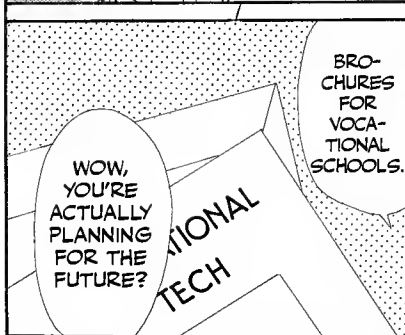
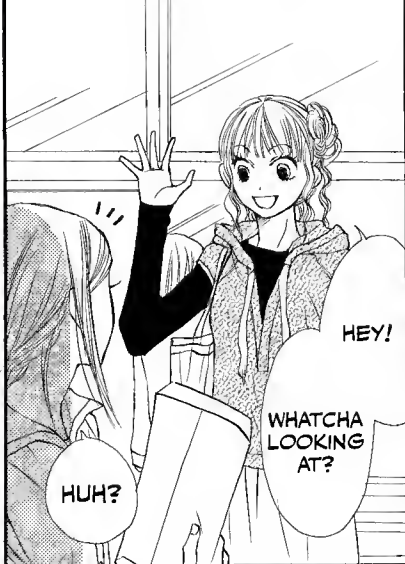
Lovely ★
Complex
2005
Risa
Koizumi

Story & Art by
Aya Nakahara



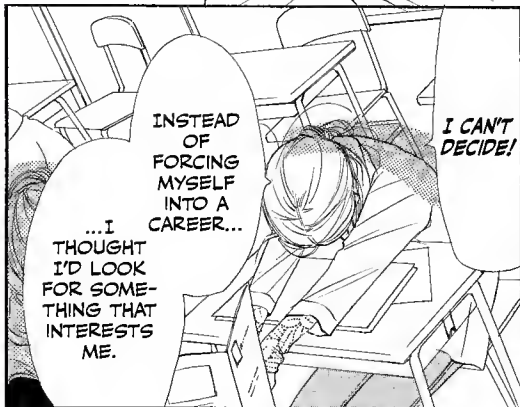


CHAPTER 45



...BUT AT
LEAST HE'S
DONE WITH
THOSE
CRAM
CLASSES.

WE WON'T
GET THE
RESULTS
TILL NEXT
WEEK...

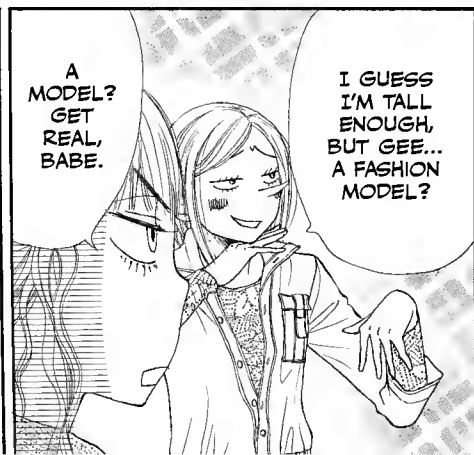
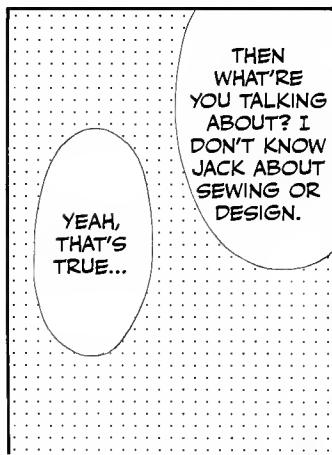
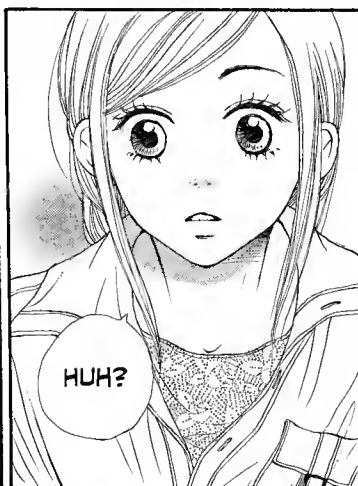
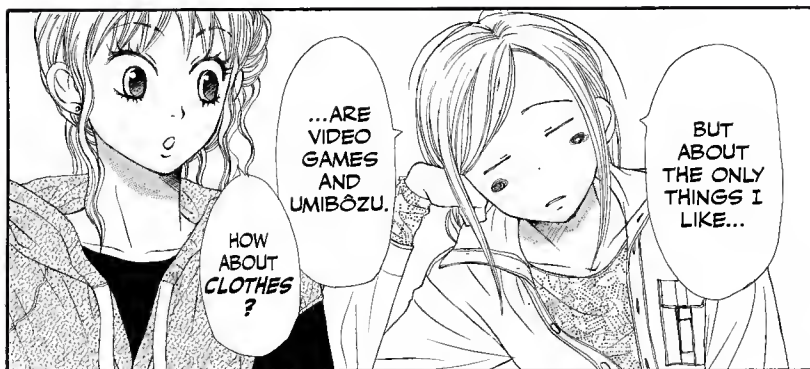


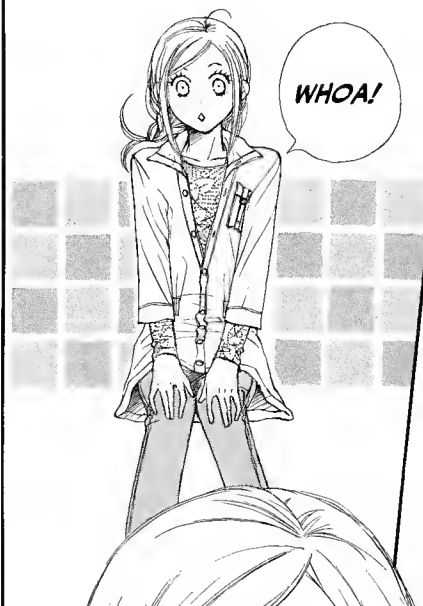
...I
THOUGHT
I'D LOOK
FOR SOME-
THING THAT
INTERESTS
ME.



SO
WHERE
ARE YOU
GONNA
GO?

YEAH, I'M
SCREWED
IF I DON'T
PICK SOMETHING.





WHOA!

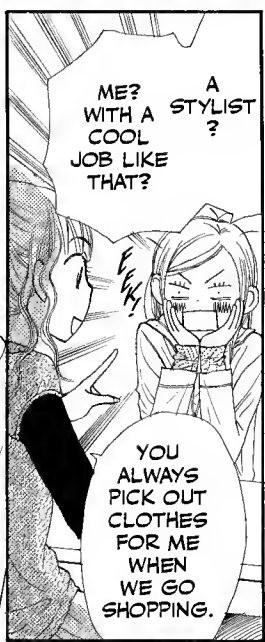


HOW ABOUT A *STYLIST*?



AND I'VE NEVER GONE WRONG WITH YOUR PICKS.

I GUESS I'D BETTER MAKE UP MY MIND SOON...



ME? WITH A COOL JOB LIKE THAT? A *STYLIST*?

YOU ALWAYS PICK OUT CLOTHES FOR ME WHEN WE GO SHOPPING.

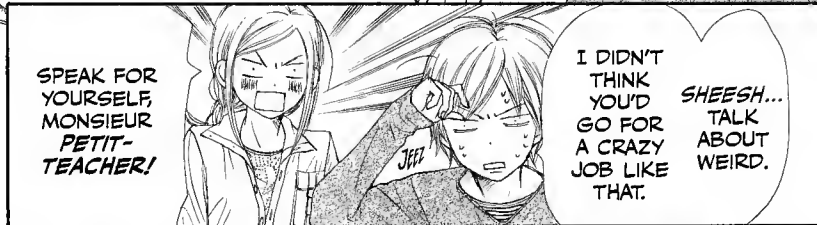


A
STYLIST
?

IT
WAS
JUST
AN
IDEA!!



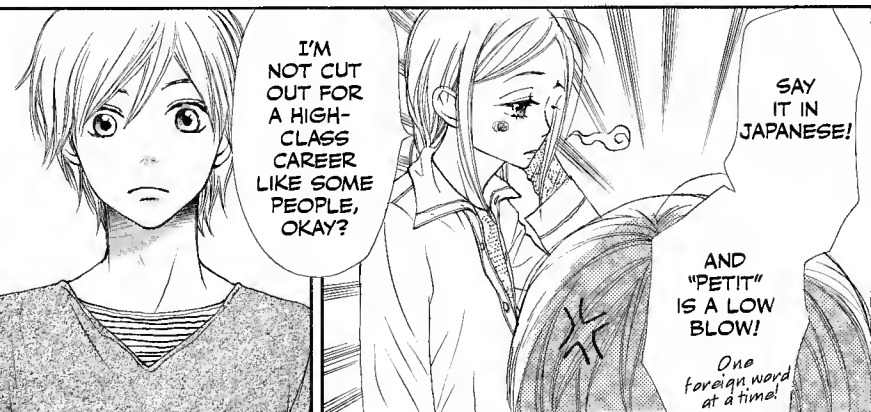
WHOA.



SPEAK FOR
YOURSELF,
MONSIEUR
PETIT-
TEACHER!

I DIDN'T
THINK
YOU'D
GO FOR A
CRAZY
JOB LIKE
THAT.

SHEESH...
TALK
ABOUT
WEIRD.

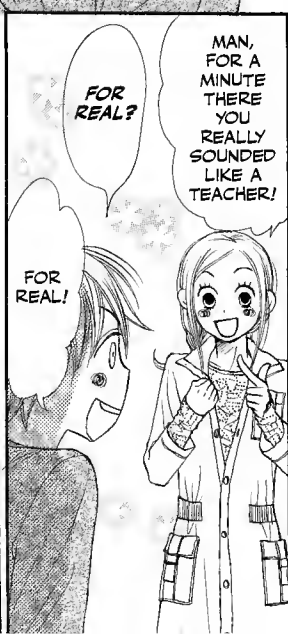
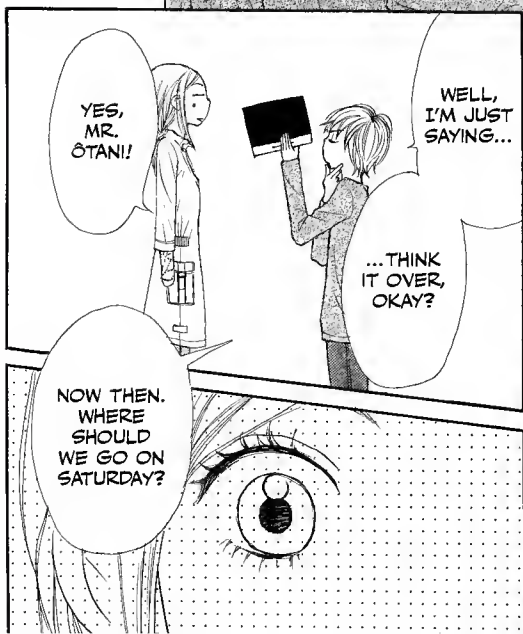


I'M
NOT CUT
OUT FOR
A HIGH-
CLASS
CAREER
LIKE SOME
PEOPLE,
OKAY?

SAY
IT IN
JAPANESE!

AND
"PETIT"
IS A LOW
BLOW!

One
foreign word
at a time!





I TOLD
YOU TO
THINK
ABOUT
WHERE
TO GO,
RIGHT?



SAY
WHAT?



I DON'T
WANT TO
SIT AROUND
THE HOUSE
ALL DAY
FREAKING
OUT.



ALL THE
MORE
REASON.

BUT
SATUR-
DAY...
...IS
THE DAY
BEFORE
THEY POST
THE EXAM
RESULTS.



I SEE.
OKAY...

I'M
IN THE
MOOD
FOR
FINE
DINING,
MON-
SIEUR. LEMME
THINK...

DONE!

IT'LL BE
TEACHER'S
TREAT.



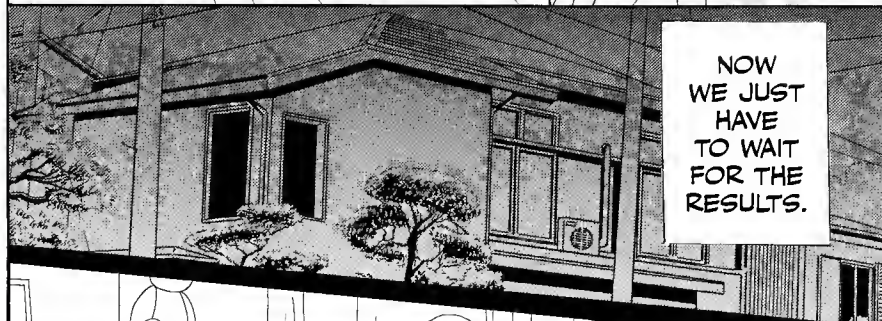
HONESTLY...
YOU'VE
DONE
GREAT,
ÔTANI.

JUST
DON'T
TELL
THE REST
OF THE
CLASS.

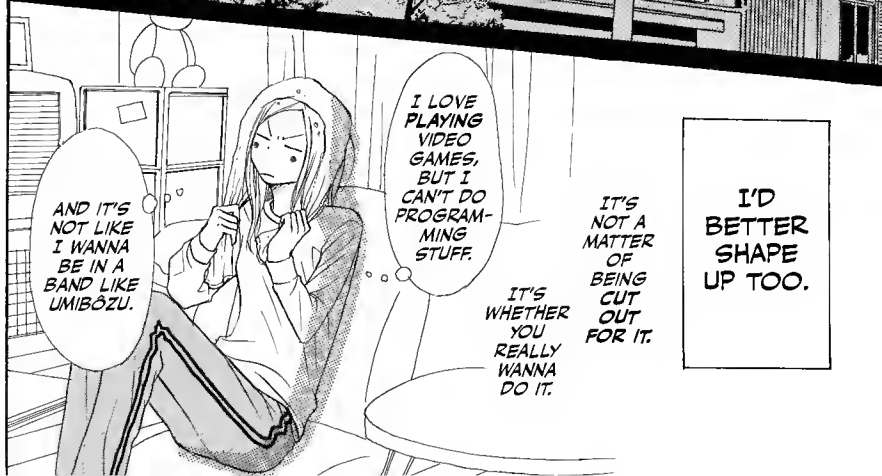
SWEET!
WHAT
A COOL
TEACHER!!

Okay!

Ha
ha
ha



NOW
WE JUST
HAVE
TO WAIT
FOR THE
RESULTS.



AND IT'S
NOT LIKE
I WANNA
BE IN A
BAND LIKE
UMIBÔZU.

I LOVE
PLAYING
VIDEO
GAMES,
BUT I
CAN'T DO
PROGRAM-
MING
STUFF.

IT'S
WHETHER
YOU
REALLY
WANNA
DO IT.

IT'S
NOT A
MATTER
OF
BEING
CUT
OUT
FOR IT.

I'D
BETTER
SHAPE
UP TOO.

YOU
LIKE
CLOTHES,
RIGHT?



HAVEN'T
BEEN
OUT ON
A DATE
IN A
WHILE...
♪



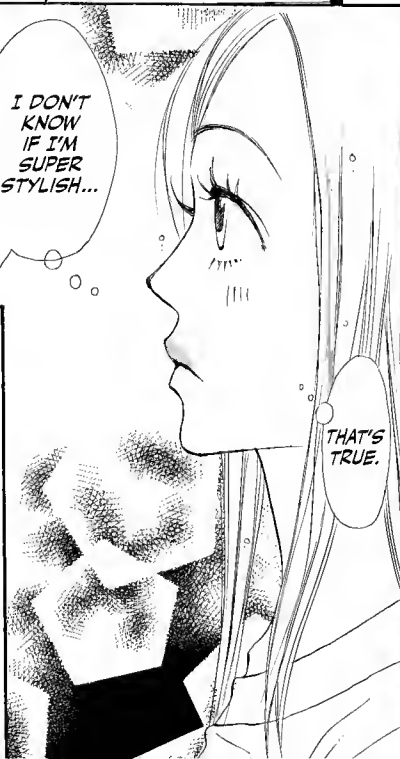
OH
YEAH!

GOTTA
PICK
OUT MY
SATURDAY
ENSEM-
BLE!!



I DON'T
KNOW
IF I'M
SUPER
STYLISH...
BUT
I DO
LIKE
FASHION.

IS THAT
WHAT I
SHOULD
STUDY?



THAT'S
TRUE.



HMM...

MAYBE
I'D
ENJOY
IT.

JOHN LANE

WHAT'S
THAT?

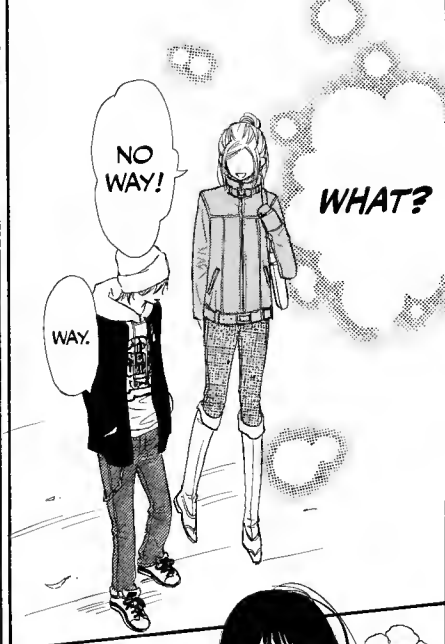
TODAY IS
KOIZUMI
APPRECIATION
DAY.

I
COULDN'T
BE THERE
FOR YOU
WHILE
I WAS
STUDYING.

SO
TODAY
I'LL DO
ANY-
THING
YOU
WANT.

WHERE
TO
NOW?

WHERE-
EVER
YOU
WANT.





HEH.

WHY'RE
YOU
DRESSED
UP LIKE
THAT?



TSK

Gee,
sorry...

OH,
YOU'RE
HERE
TOO?



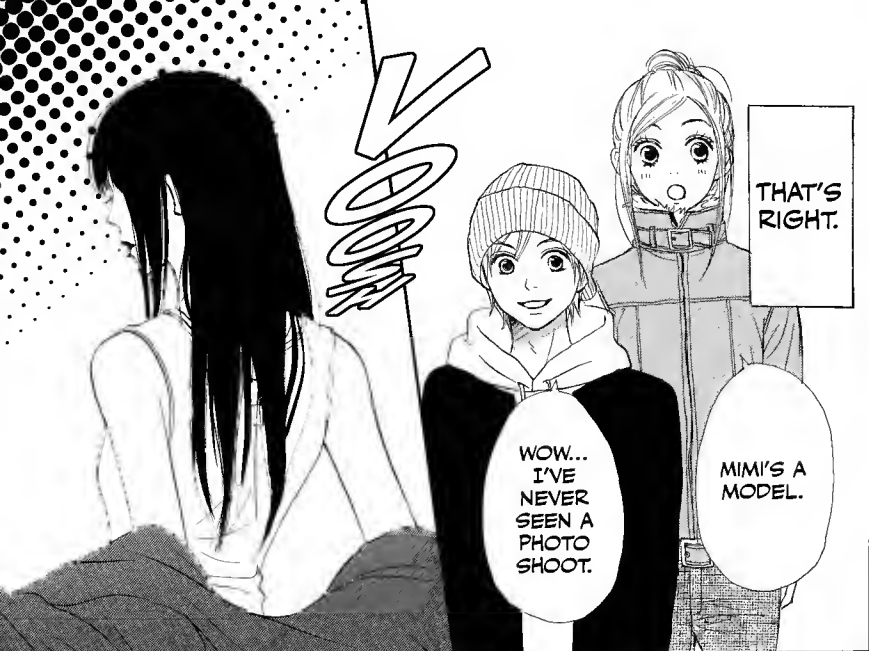
COMING!

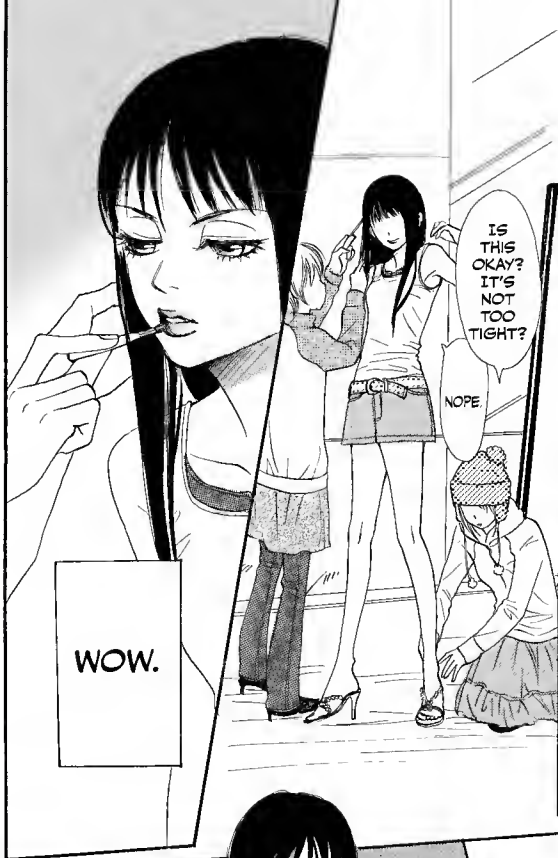
M
/
M
/

A
MAGAZINE
SHOOT.

I'M IN
MODELING,
Y'KNOW.

WORK?





WOW.



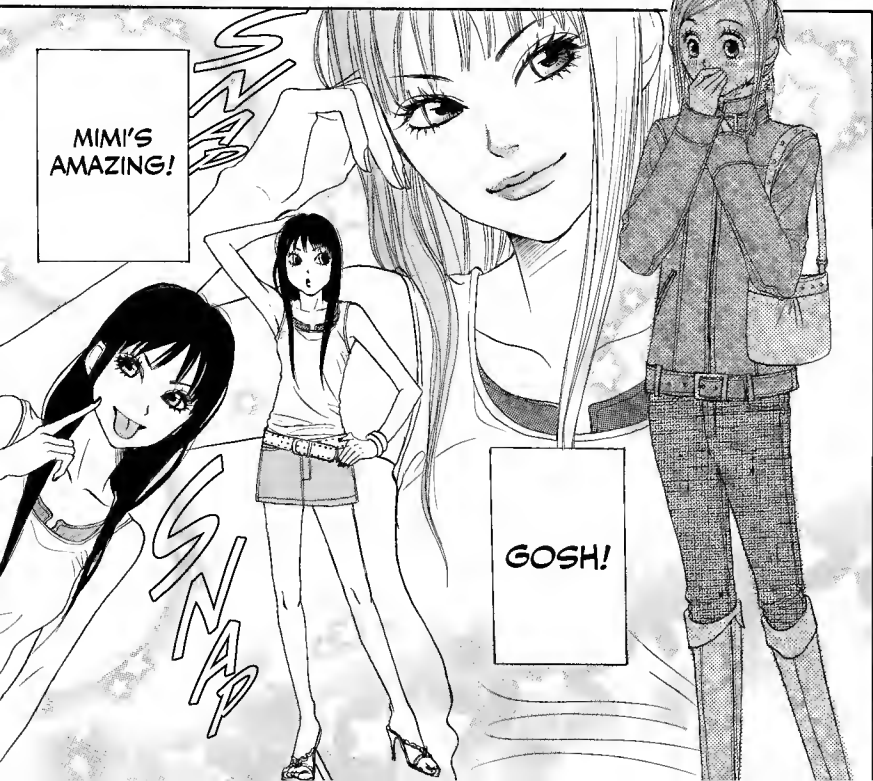
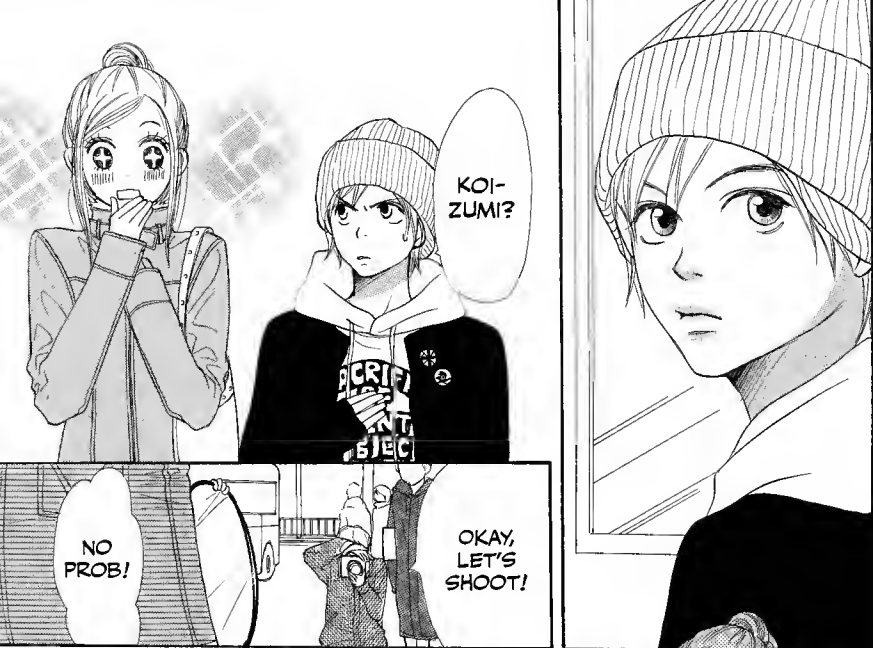
JUST
WOW.

S
N
A
P

READY
WHEN
YOU
ARE!

LET'S
GET
SOME
POLAR-
OIDS.

OKAY







Hello! Nakahara here!

We're up to Volume 12.
It's been a while, huh?

Thank you very much for
all your warm wishes.

With this volume,
I'll have written 48
of these notes.
I can't remember any
of the stuff I've already
written, so sorry if I
repeat myself.

Anyway...this is really
random, but my mom
never drains her tossed
salads thoroughly.



If you forget to tilt the
bowl to drain the water
out before you pour on
the dressing, you'll end
up with vegetable soup.

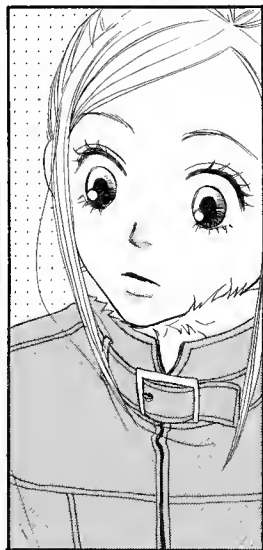
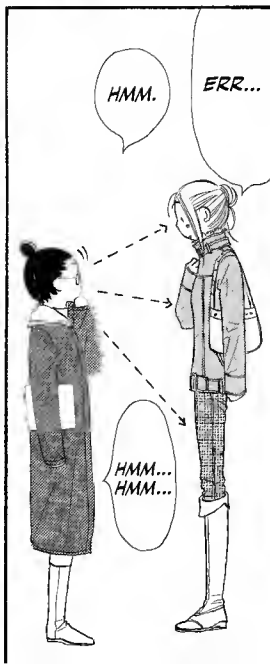
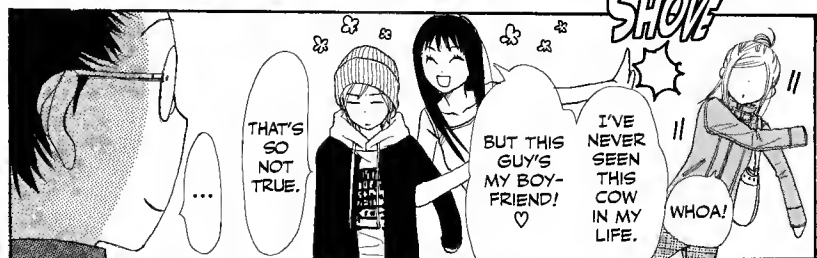
Or a weird appetizer.

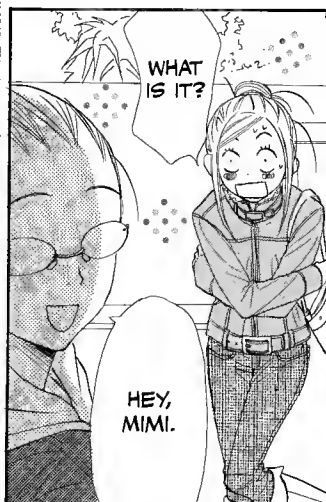
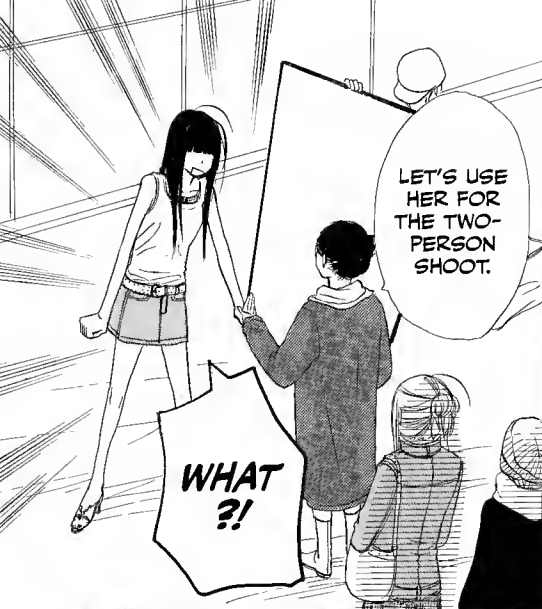
As a result,
I hate tossed salads.

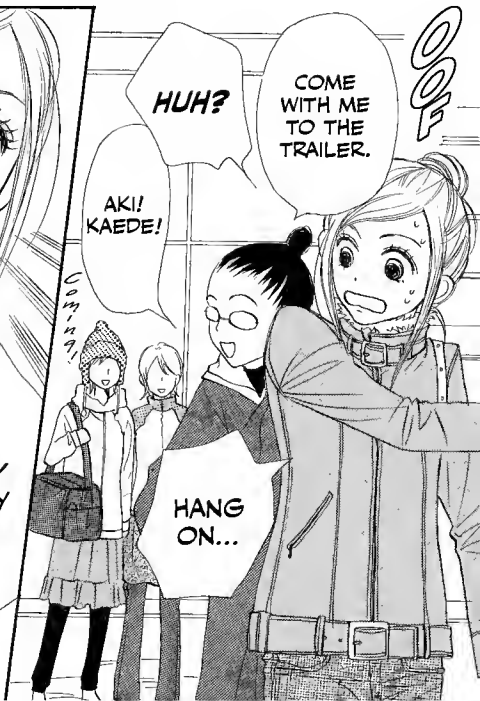
Drain your salads
thoroughly!

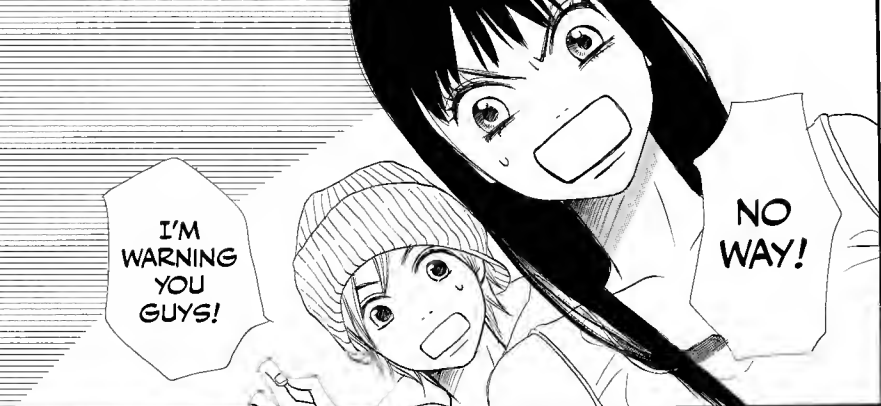
This is my plea!





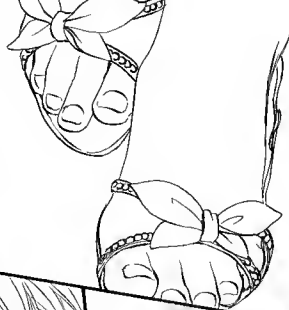




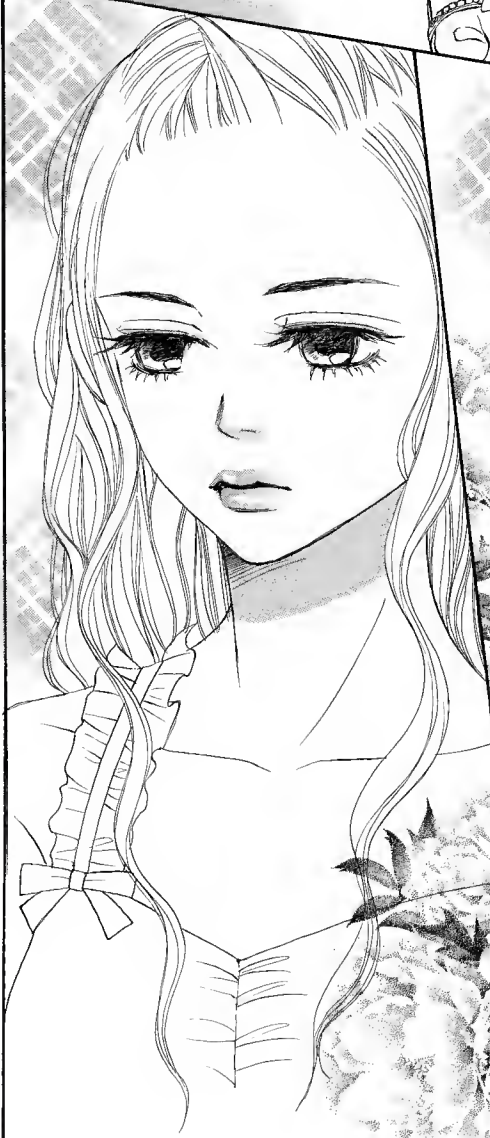


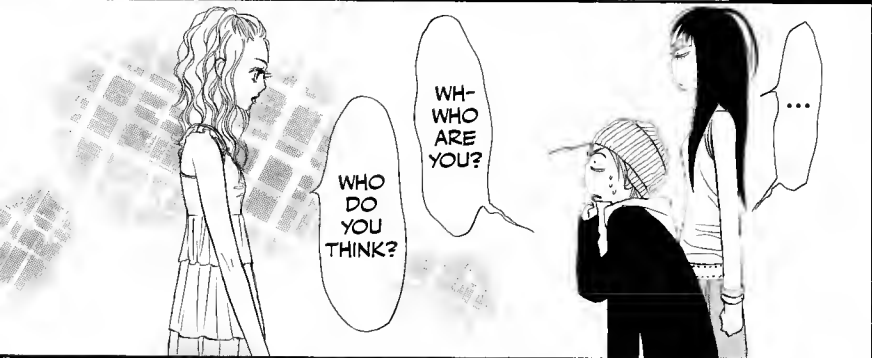
...IS
TOTALLY...

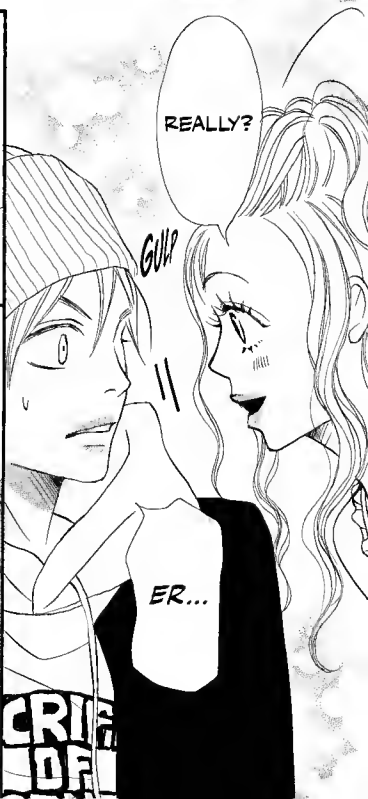
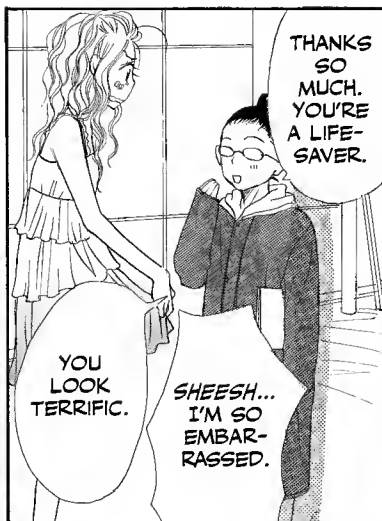




TOK

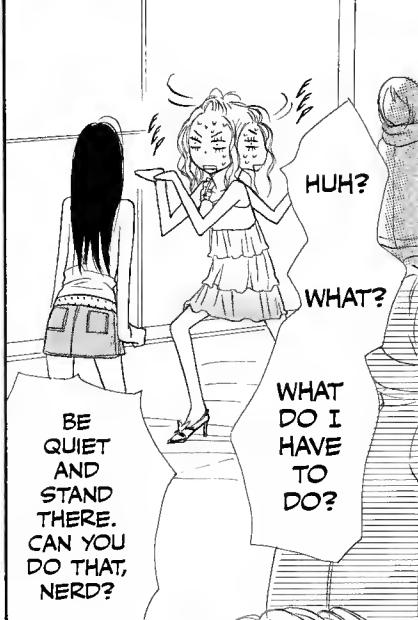








JUST DON'T
GET
IN MY
WAY.

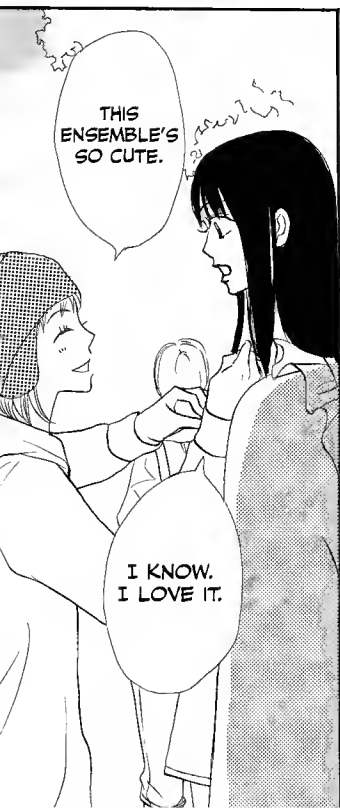


HUH?

WHAT?

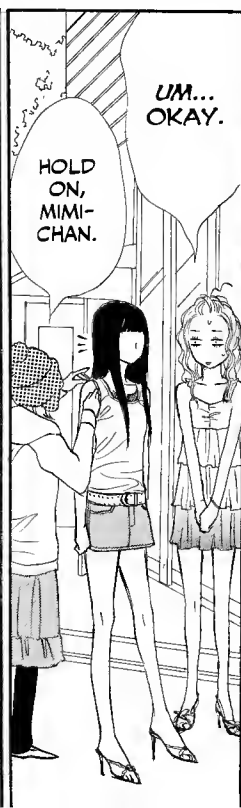
WHAT
DO I
HAVE
TO
DO?

BE
QUIET
AND
STAND
THERE.
CAN YOU
DO THAT,
NERD?



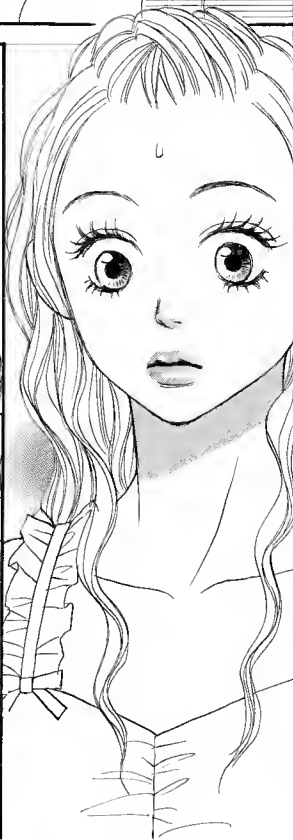
THIS
ENSEMBLE'S
SO CUTE.

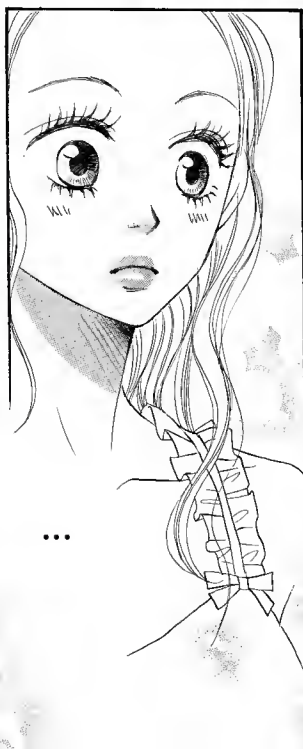
I KNOW.
I LOVE IT.

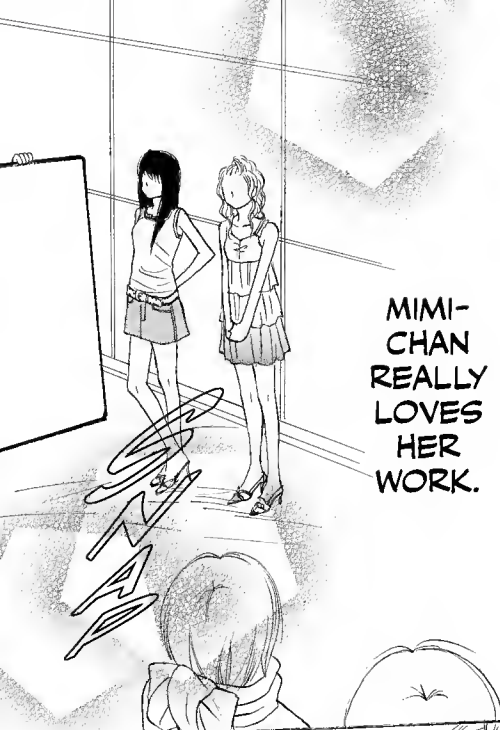


HOLD
ON,
MIMI-
CHAN.

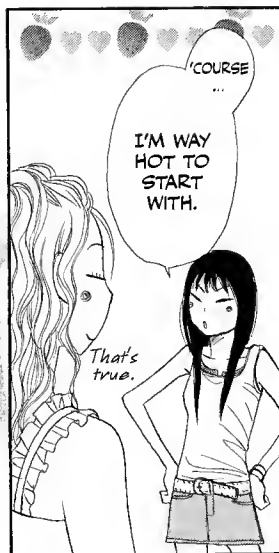
UM...
OKAY.







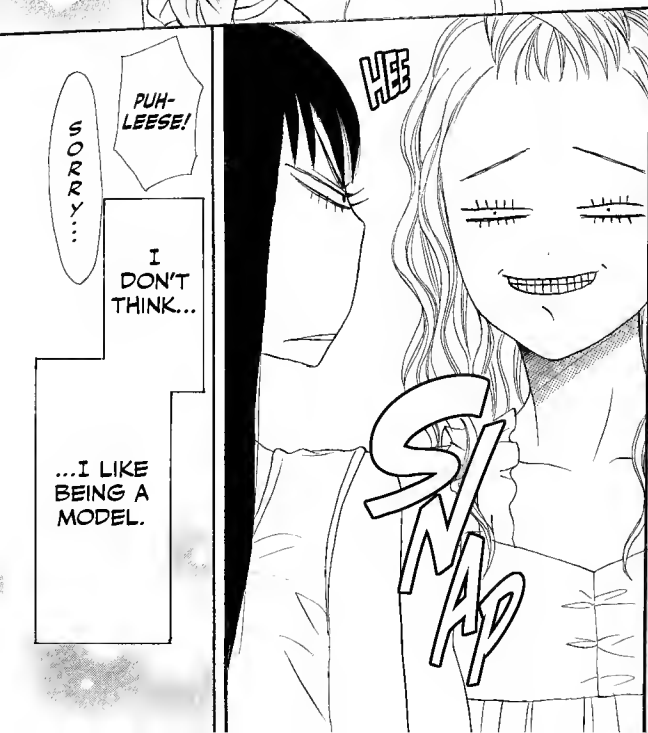
MIMI-
CHAN
REALLY
LOVES
HER
WORK.



'COURSE
...

I'M WAY
HOT TO
START
WITH.

That's
true.



S
O
R
R
Y
...

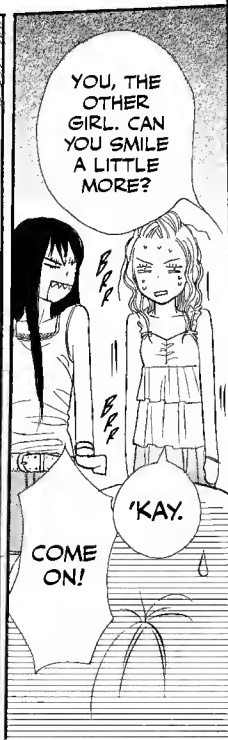
PUH-
LEESE!

I
D
O
N'
T
T
H
I
N
K...

...I LIKE
BEING A
MODEL.

H
E
E

S
N
A
P

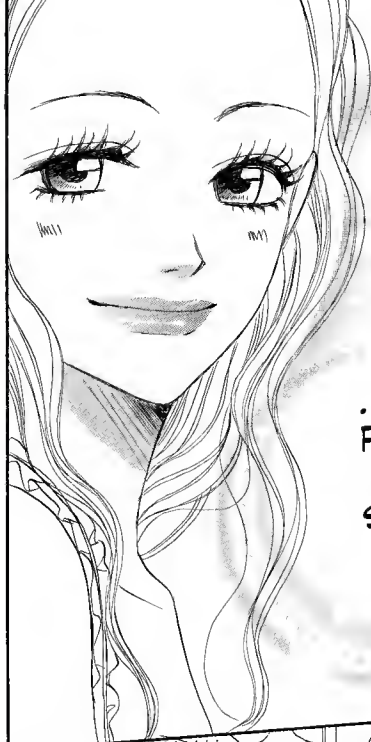


YOU, THE
OTHER
GIRL. CAN
YOU SMILE
A LITTLE
MORE?

B
R
R
B
R
R

'KAY.

C
O
M
E
O
N!

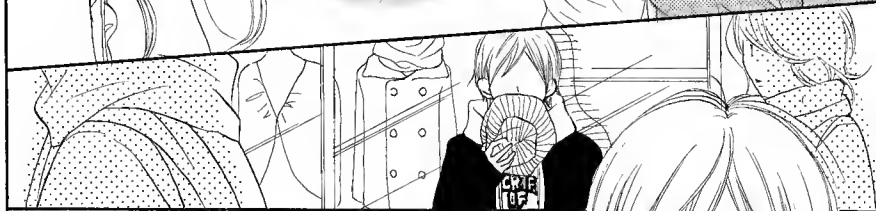


Oh,
that's
cute.

S
N
A
E

BUT...

...IT'S A
PRETTY
COOL
SCENE.

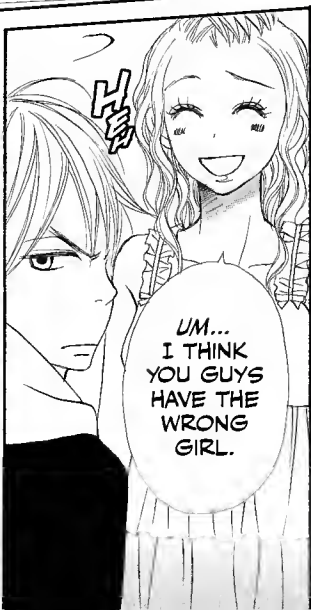
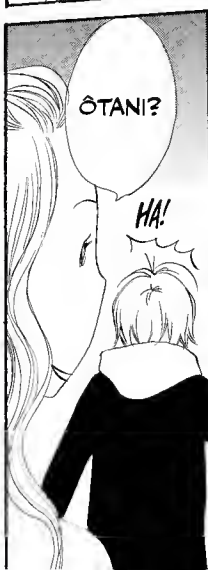
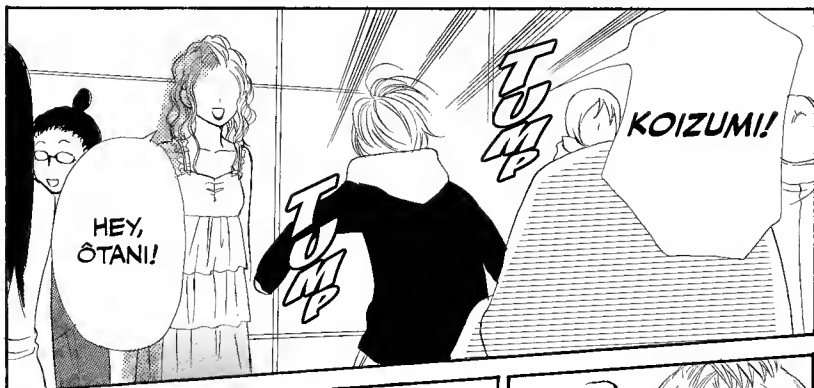
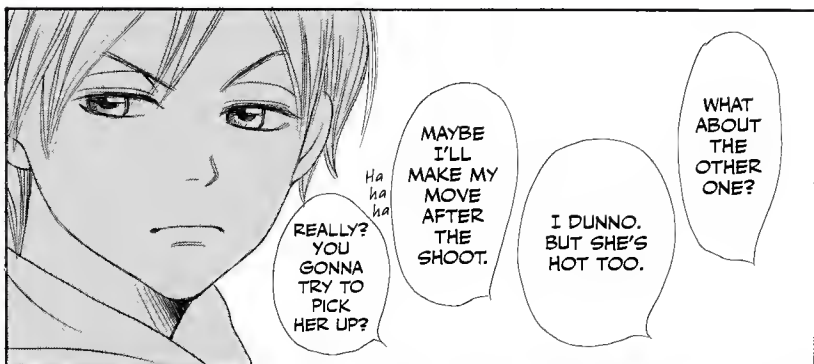


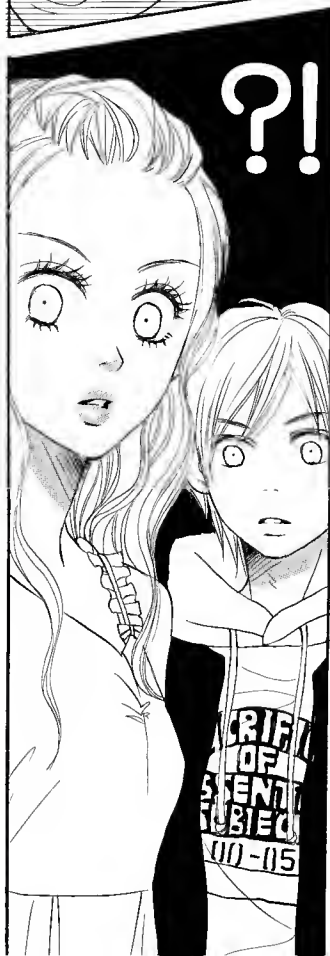
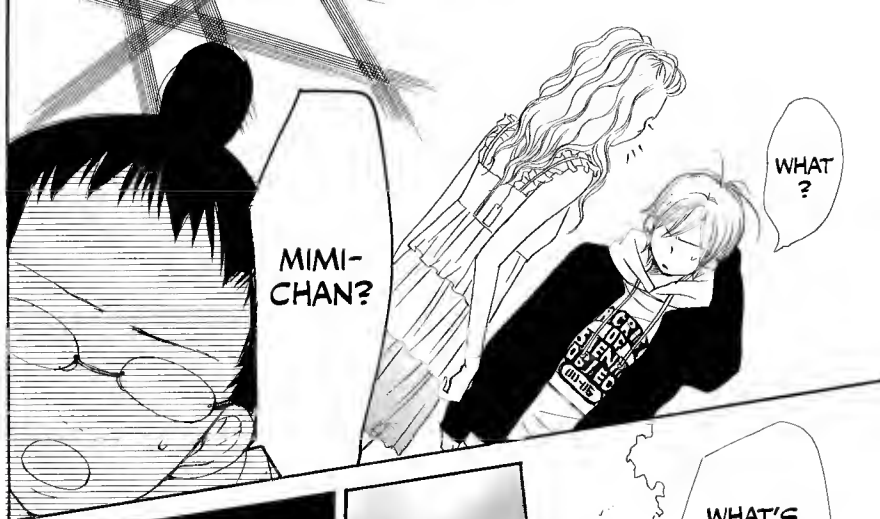
THE ONE
WITH THE
STRAIGHT
HAIR!

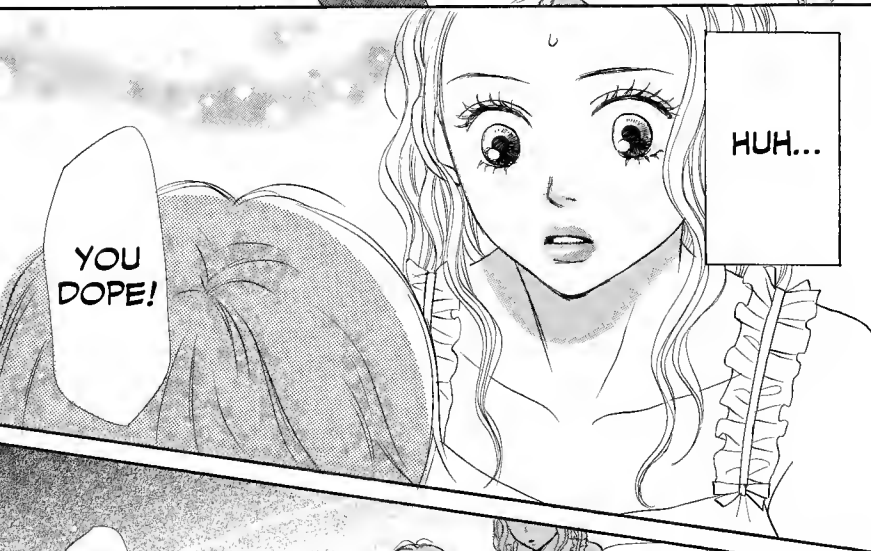
HEY! I'VE
SEEN THAT
GIRL IN MY
SISTER'S
MAGAZINES!

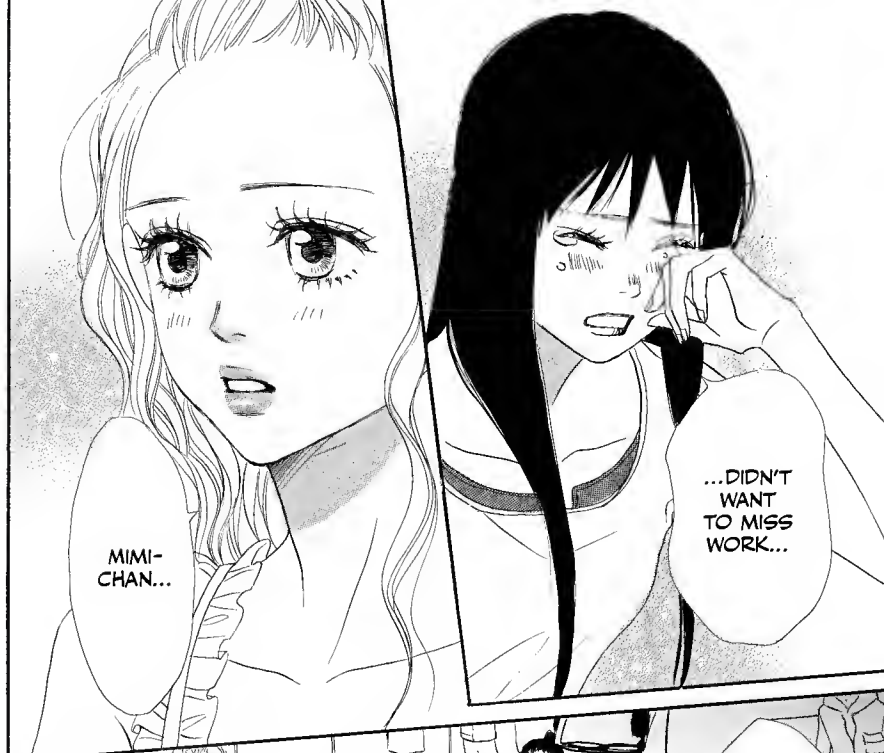
I
WONDER
WHAT
THEY'RE
SHOOT-
ING...











MIMI-
CHAN...

...DIDN'T
WANT
TO MISS
WORK...

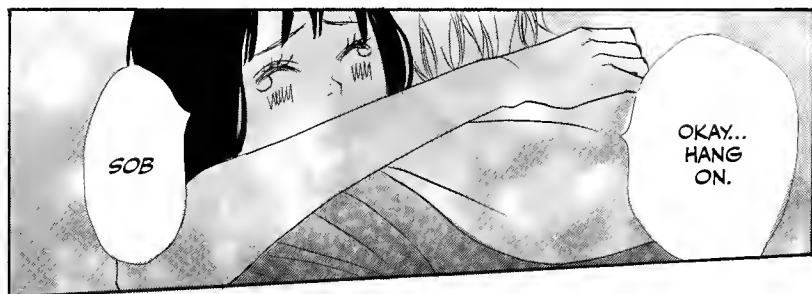


OWW...
IT
HURTS...

MIMI,
CAN
YOU
STAND?

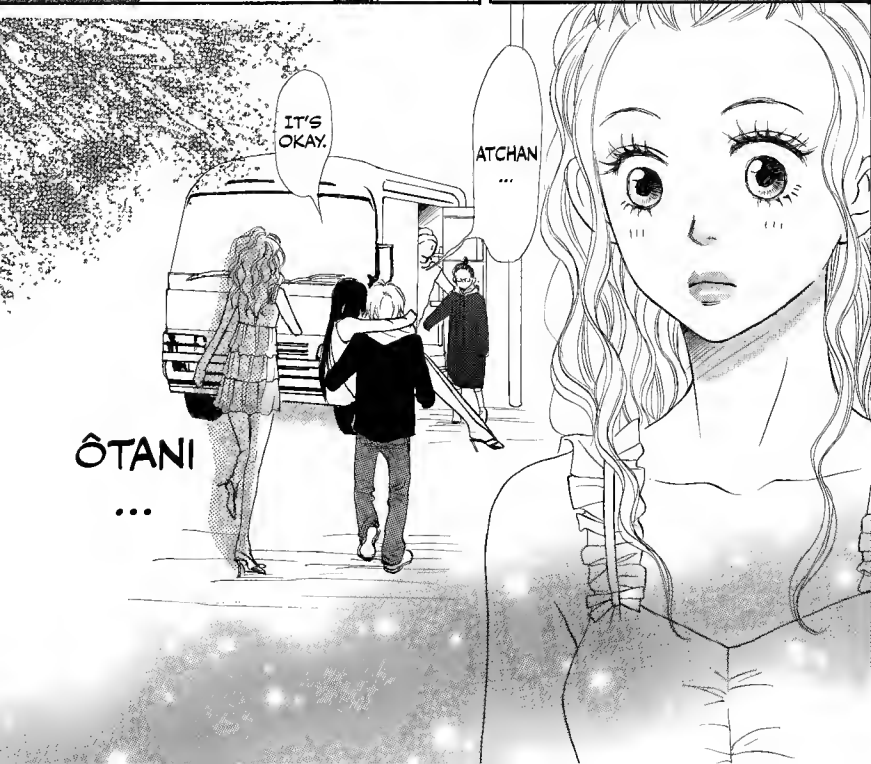
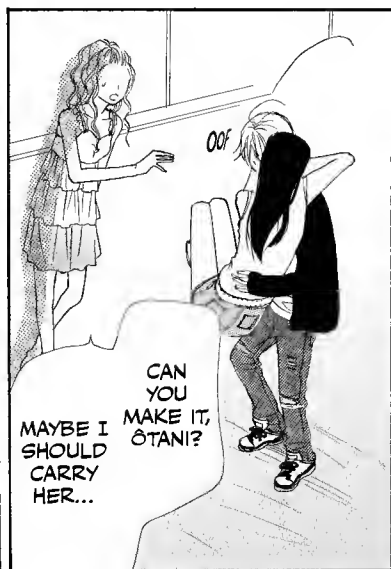
GET
IN!

IT'LL BE
FASTER
TAKING THE
TRAILER
THAN WAIT-
ING FOR AN
AMBULANCE.



SOB

OKAY...
HANG
ON.



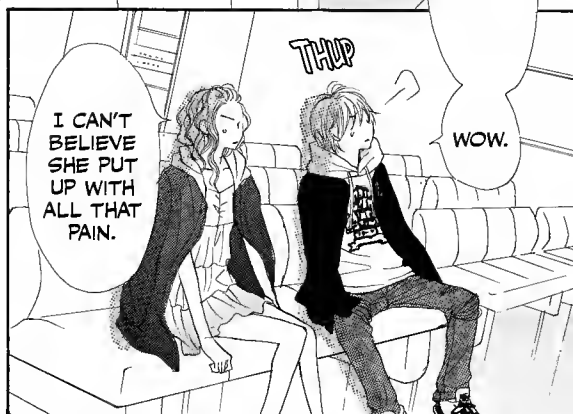


ACUTE
APPENDI-
CITIS.



SHE
EVEN
HAD THE
ENERGY
TO PICK
ON ME...

AW, YOU
EGGED
HER ON.



I CAN'T
BELIEVE
SHE PUT
UP WITH
ALL THAT
PAIN.

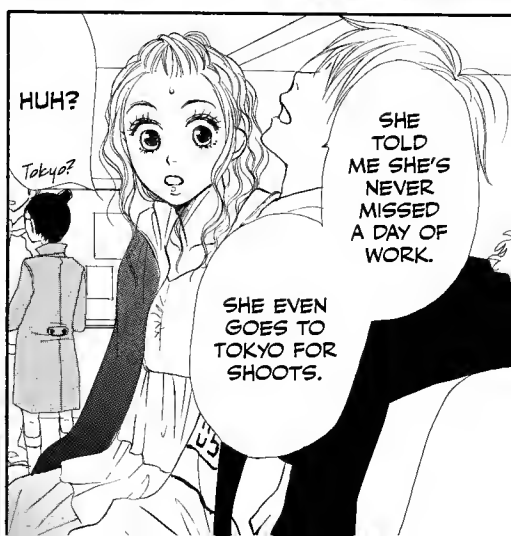
THUP

WOW.



SHE'S
ALWAYS
WANTED
TO BE A
MODEL.

SHE
MUST
REALLY
BE INTO
HER
WORK.



HUH?

Tokyo?

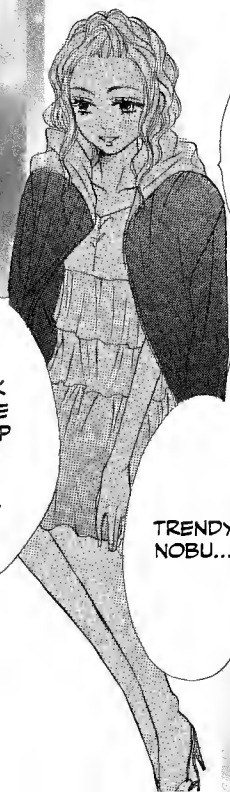
SHE
TOLD
ME SHE'S
NEVER
MISSED
A DAY OF
WORK.

SHE EVEN
GOES TO
TOKYO FOR
SHOOTS.



YOU
GET TO
WEAR
TONS OF
COOL
CLOTHES.

AND
THEY
MAKE
YOU
LOOK
SUPER
HOT.



I DON'T
WANNA
BE A
MODEL.

MIMI...

I THINK
I'D LIKE
TO HELP
THEM
LOOK
GOOD.

TRENDY
NOBU...



...REALLY
THINK I
WANT TO
STUDY
FASHION.

I...

HUH?



UM...

WHAT
DO YOU
THINK
ABOUT
THAT?



SIGH

OKAY,
SO IT'S
A DUMB
IDEA...

A
STYYYLIST,
HUH?



IF
YOU'RE
SERIOUS,
SHOW
SOME
SPINE
ABOUT
IT!



OW!

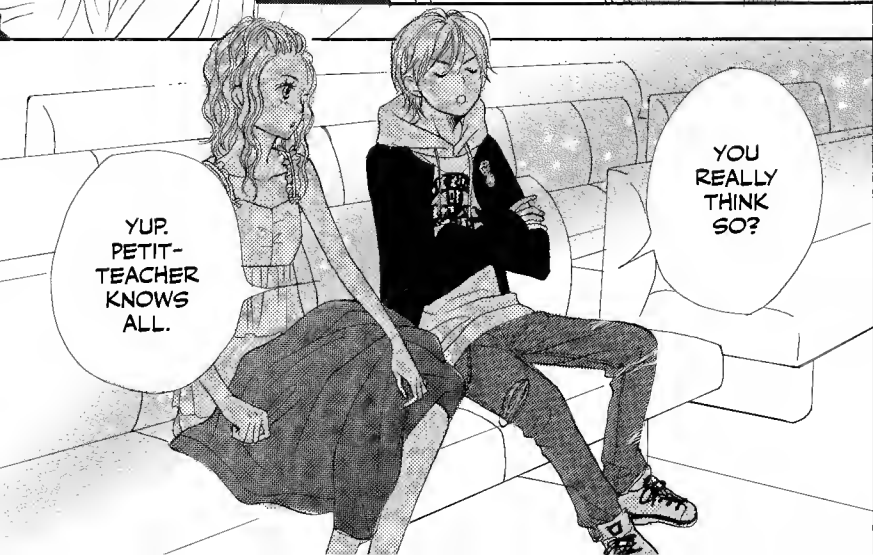
WHACK

IDIOT!



YOU
CAN DO
ANYTHING
YOU WANT.

YOU'VE
GOT WHAT
IT TAKES,
AT LEAST
AS MUCH
AS MIMI.



YUP.
PETIT-
TEACHER
KNOWS
ALL.

YOU
REALLY
THINK
SO?



I HOPE
I FIND
A JOB...

...THAT
GETS
ME AS
EXCITED
AS MIMI
IS FOR
HERS.



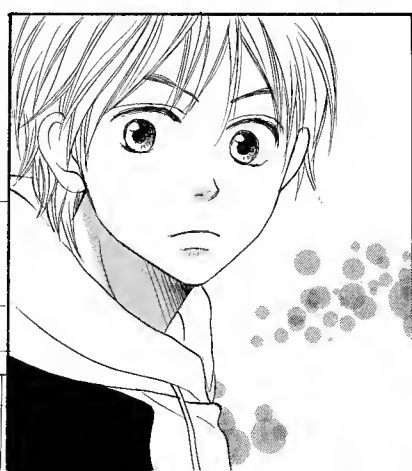
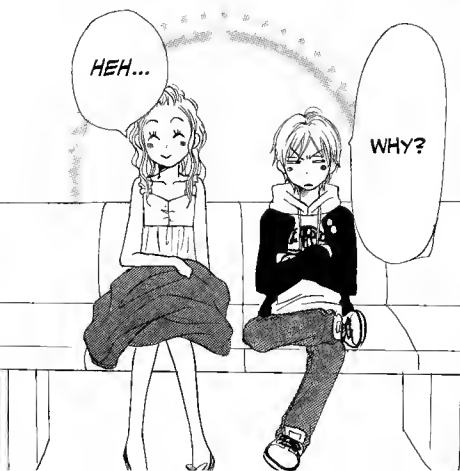
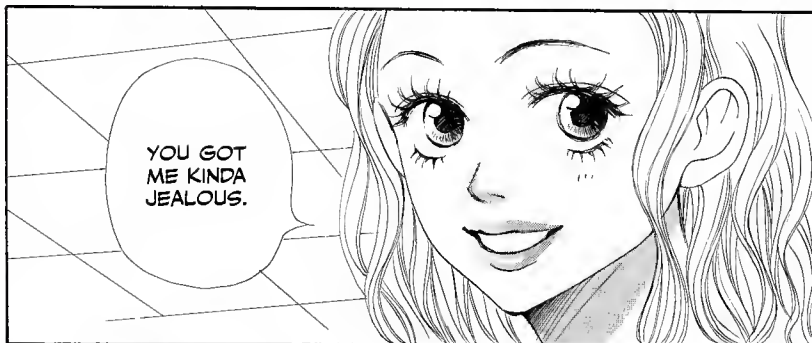
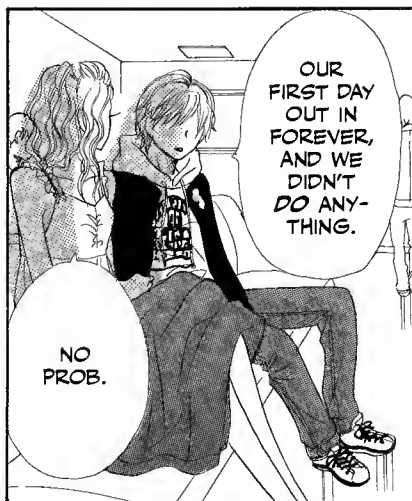
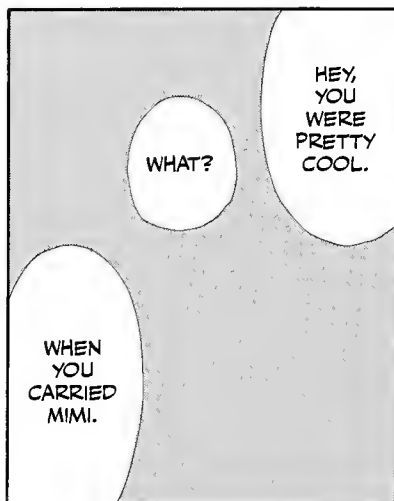
UNTIL
THEN...

UNTIL
THEN...

...I'LL
JUST
HAVE TO
STUDY.

HUH?

↑ Internal Med

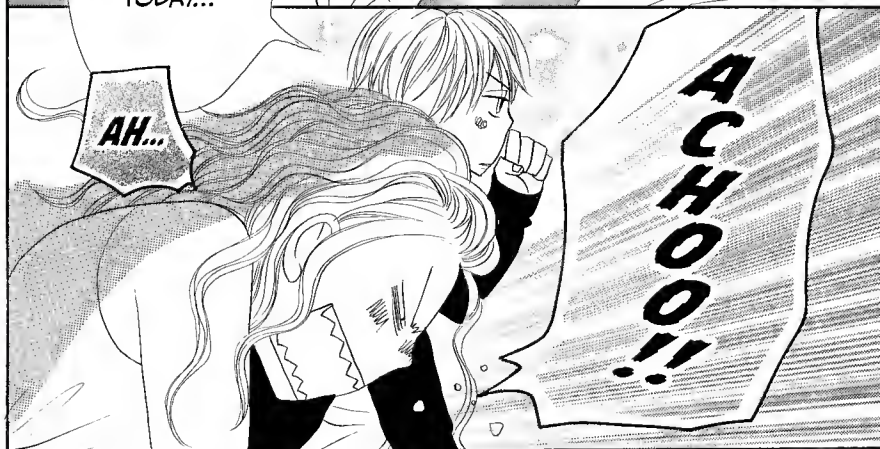




WELL
...

KOI-
ZUMI...

YOU
LOOKED
PRETTY
CUTE
TODAY...



AH...

A
C
H
O
O
!!



HUH?
AFTER
YOU JUST
TOLD ME
I LOOK
CUTE?

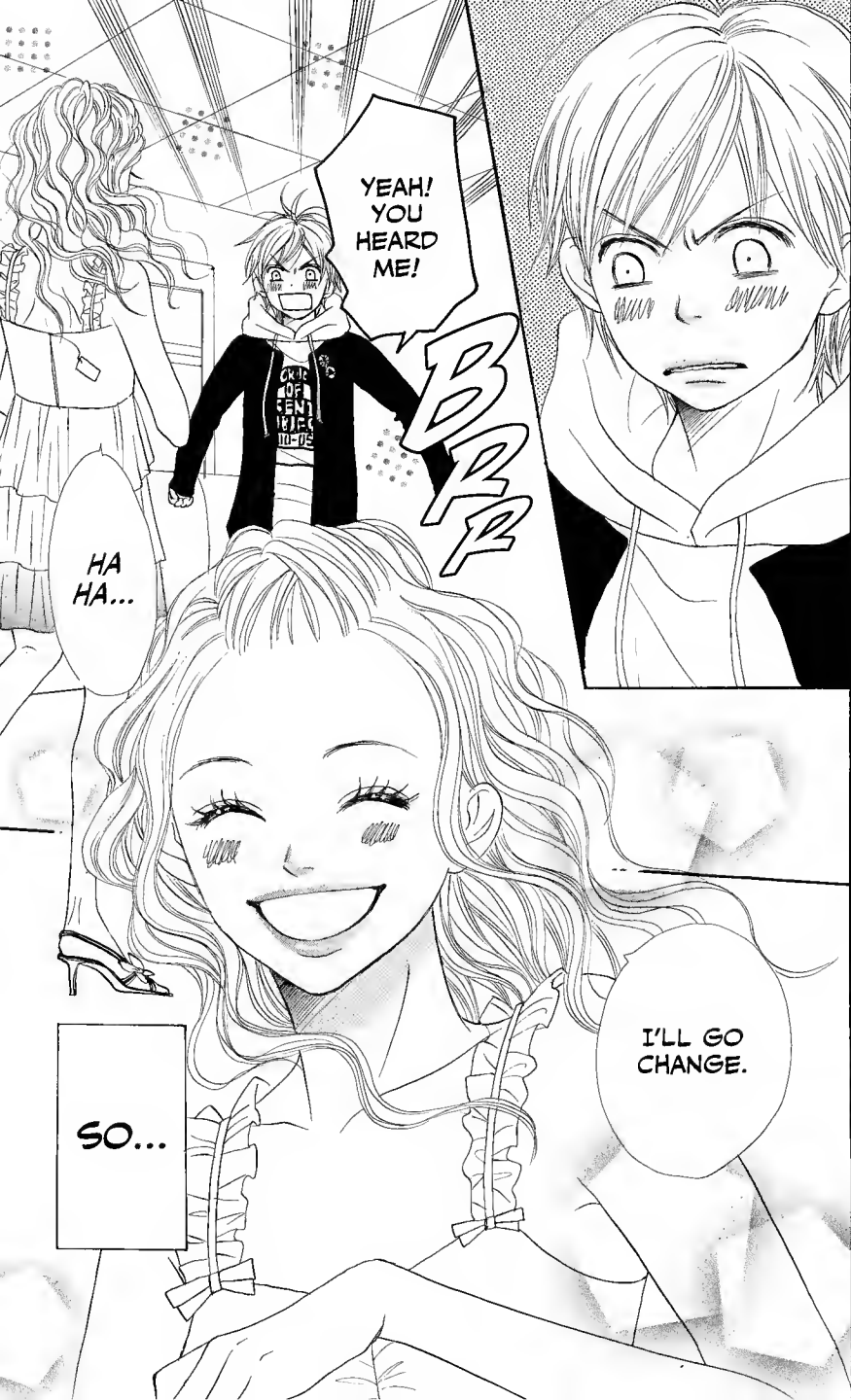
WELL,
GO
CHANGE
THEN!!



EW...

AH...

ID'S
COLD.



YEAH!
YOU
HEARD
ME!

BRP

HA
HA...

SO...

I'LL GO
CHANGE.



THAT
IDIOT.

...
TOMORROW
THEY'LL
POST THE
EXAM
RESULTS.

THEN
ÔTANI'S
...

...PATH
WILL BE
CLEAR.

Usapyon Teacher's College Entrance Exam Results

AHH

Whoa

Eek

I
DIDN'T
MAKE
IT.

I
DON'T
SEE...
...YOUR
NUMBER.

CHAPTER 46



**LOVELY★
COMPLEX**

THREE
MONTHS
PASSED.



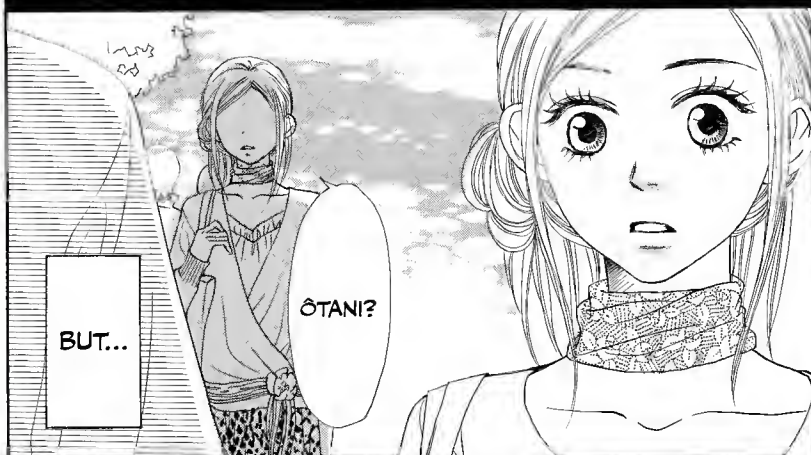
AFTER
ÔTANI
FAILED HIS
ENTRANCE
EXAMS,
HE DISAP-
PEARED.



IF
ANYONE
TOUCHED
THE BABY,
HE FLEW
INTO A
DEMONIC
RAGE.



I HEARD
A RUMOR
ABOUT A
MAN WALKING
THE NIGHT
STREETS,
NURTURING
A BABY
KANGAROO.



BUT...

ÔTANI?

AND
HE
WAS...

...THE
ÔTANI I
FOUND
ONE
YEAR
LATER...

...WAS
CARRYING
A BOX OF
CUCUM-
BERS.

...DEFI-
NITELY
DRESSED
AS A
KAPPA.

CUCUMBERS

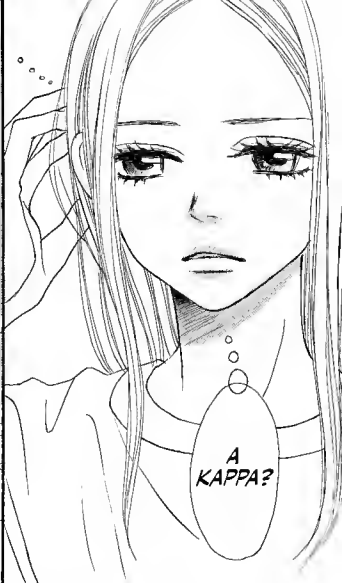
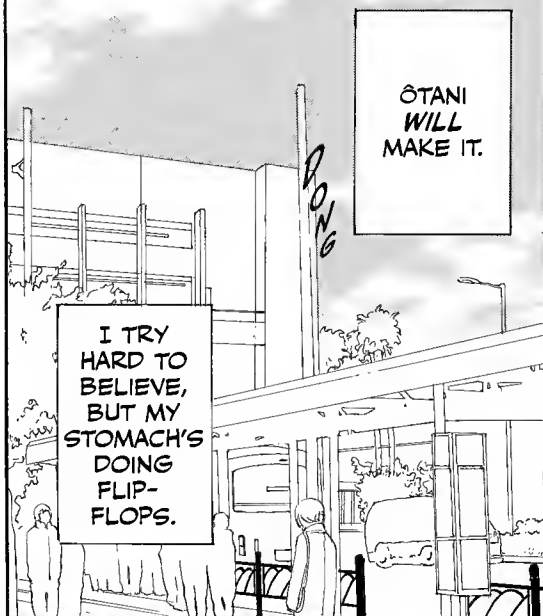
CUCUMBERS

THEN I
WOKE UP.

CHIRP

CHIRP

CHIRP





KNOCK
OFF THE
CRAZY TALK
AND HAND
OVER MY
BREAKFAST!

HEY!



YOU'LL
TURN
INTO A
KAPPA!

WHAT
THE
HECK?

NO!



UM...

YOU
WANT
ME TO
COME
WITH?

NAH.
UP TILL
DAWN.

TODAY'S
THE DAY
OF THE
TEST
RESULTS.

DID
YOU
GET
ANY
SLEEP?



ALONE
?

NO PROB.
I THINK
I'D RATHER
GO ALONE
ANYWAY.

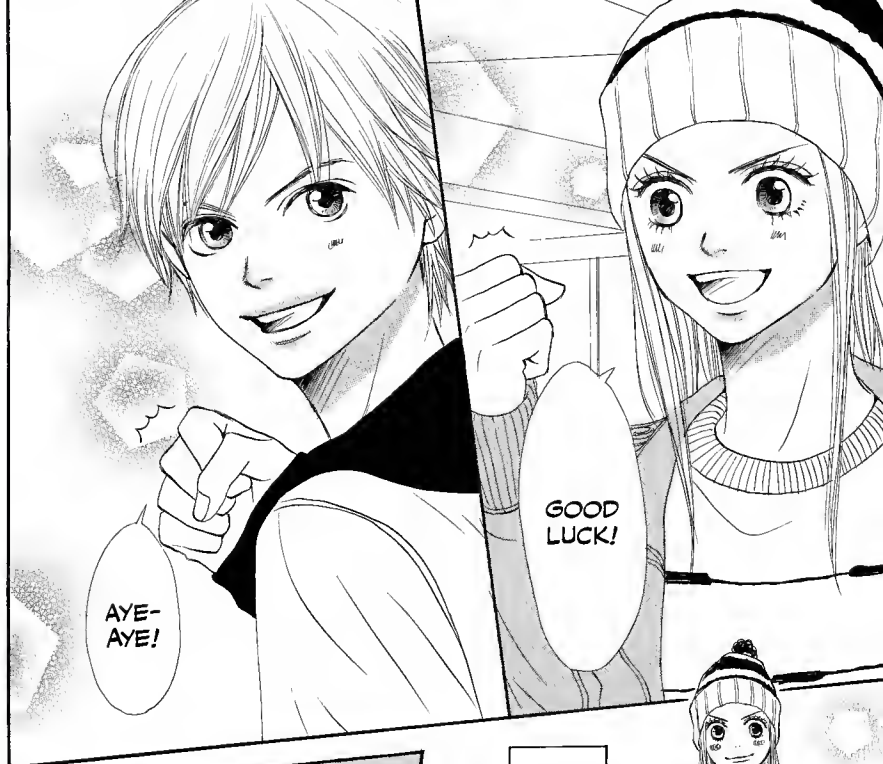


OH YEAH...
GEEZ! WHY
DO I HAVE
TO WORK
ON SUCH A
BIG DAY?

DON'T
YOU
HAVE
TO GO
TO
WORK?







AYE-
AYE!

GOOD
LUCK!



I JUST
HAVE TO
BELIEVE.

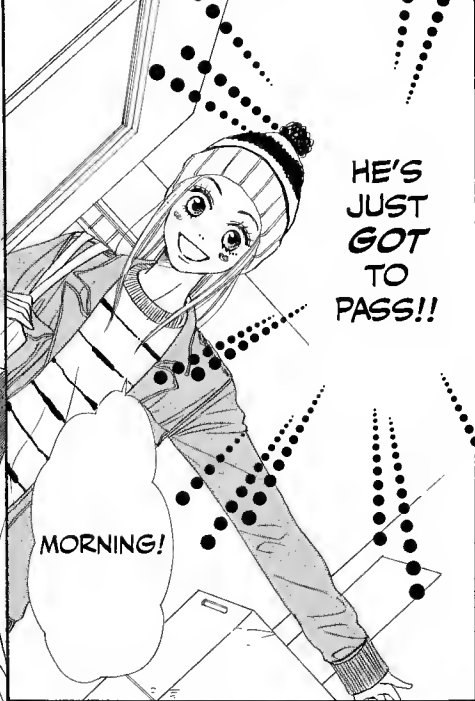
THAT'S
RIGHT.

IT'S
NO USE
WORRYING
NOW.





OH,
KOIZUMI-
SAN.
GOOD
MORNING!



HE'S
JUST
GOT
TO
PASS!!

MORNING!



CAN YOU
HANDLE
IT?

HEY, I BET
I KNOW
THE MENU
BETTER
THAN YOU.

I cook it.



Heh
heh

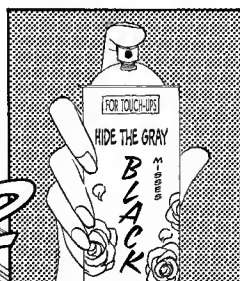
STARTING
TODAY,
I'M A
WAITER.

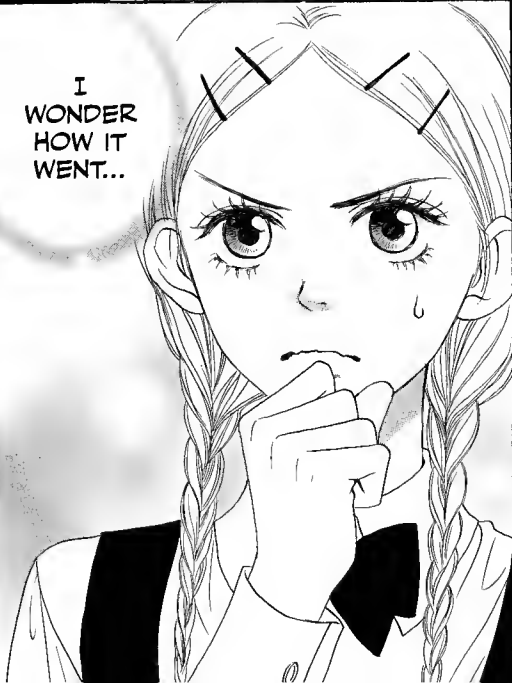
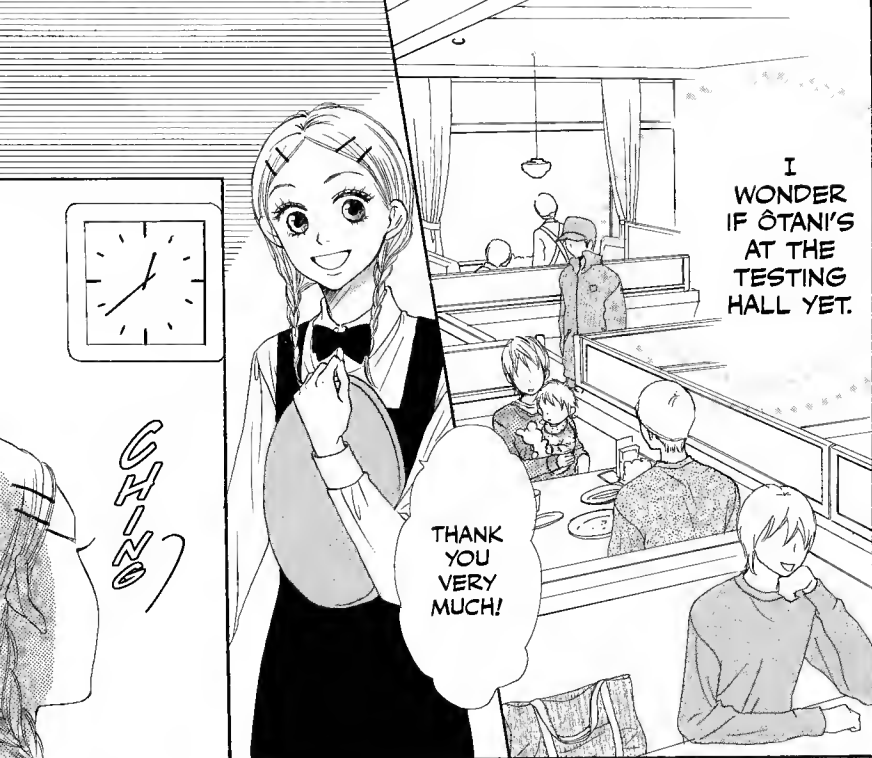
WE'RE
KIND OF
SHORT-
HANDED.

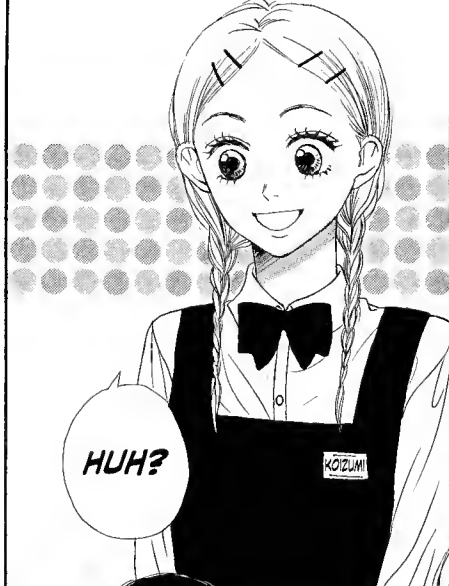
WHAT'S
WITH
THAT
GETUP?



HEY,
KOHORI-
KUN!
IT'S
BEEN A
WHILE!







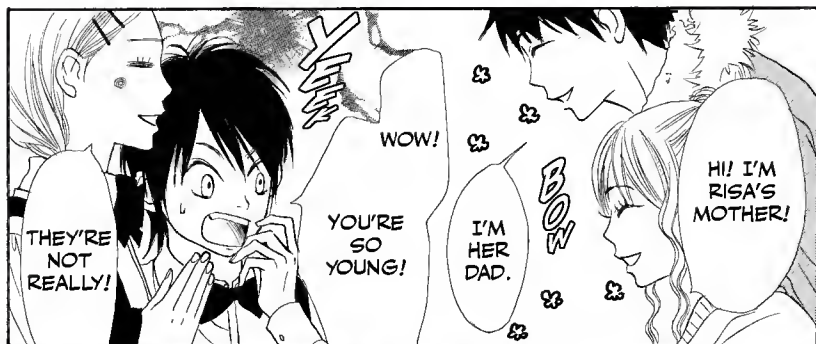
HUH?













AS IF.
I GOT
IN ON
RECOMMEN-
DATIONS
ALONE.

WATCH IT.
WHAT
GOES
AROUND
COMES
AROUND.

WELL,
THAT
SETTLES
IT. HE
FLUNKED.

HE *IS*
PRETTY
DUMB.



THAT
CAN'T
BE.

SHAA

...

...SAN
...



HEY!
HARUKA
AND
MIGHTY!

!!!

CARE
TO
JOIN
US?

YOUR
TREAT?

THAT...



WHY
DON'T
YOU TAKE
A BREAK?
I'LL
COVER
FOR YOU.

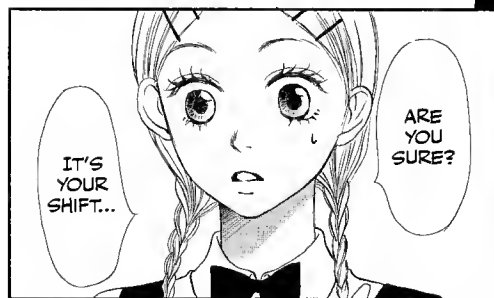
OH,
KOHORI-
KUN.
SORRY.



KOIZUMI-
SAN!

E E K !!

S P L H !



IT'S
YOUR
SHIFT...

ARE
YOU
SURE?



THAT
STUFF
THEY
SAID...

WELL...

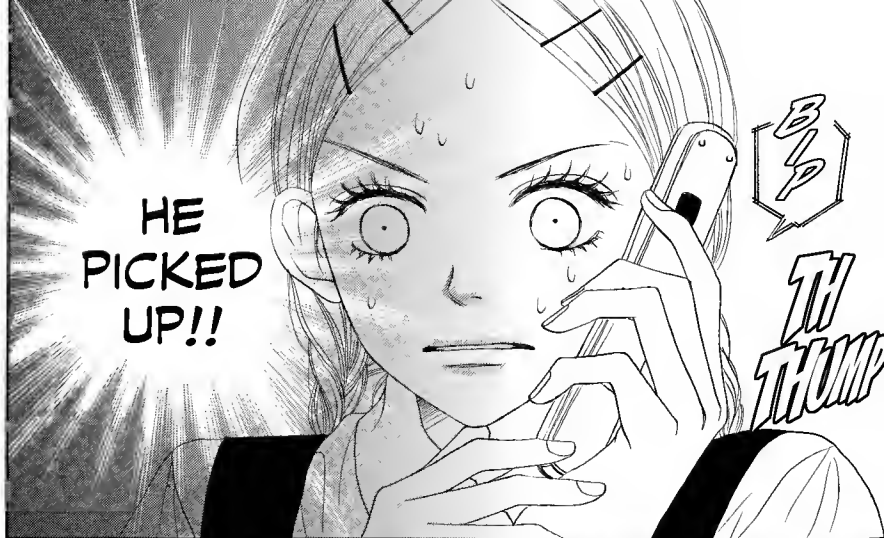
THEY'RE
JUST
SHOOTING
THEIR
MOUTHS
OFF.



YOU'RE
WORRIED,
AREN'T
YOU?
ABOUT
THE
TEST
RESULTS.

KOHORI

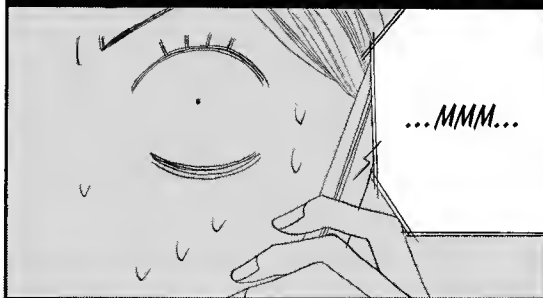




HE
PICKED
UP!!

B
P

TH
THUMP

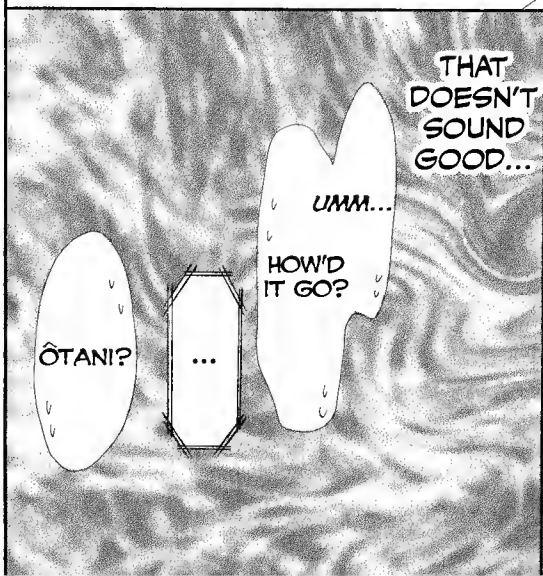


...MMM...



HELLO
?

...



THAT
DOESN'T
SOUND
GOOD...

UMM...

HOW'D
IT GO?

ÔTANI?

...



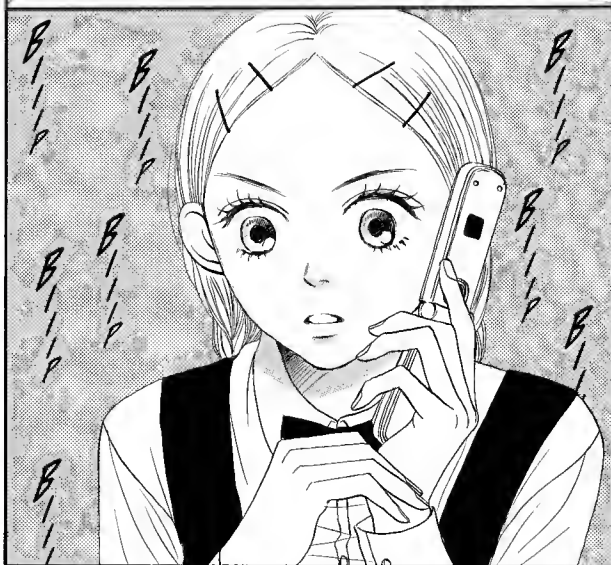
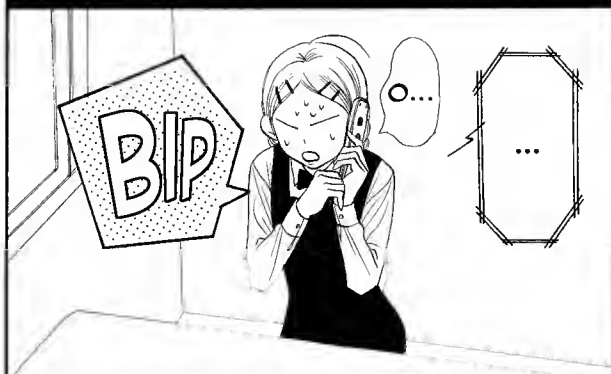
HELLO?
ÔTANI?

...

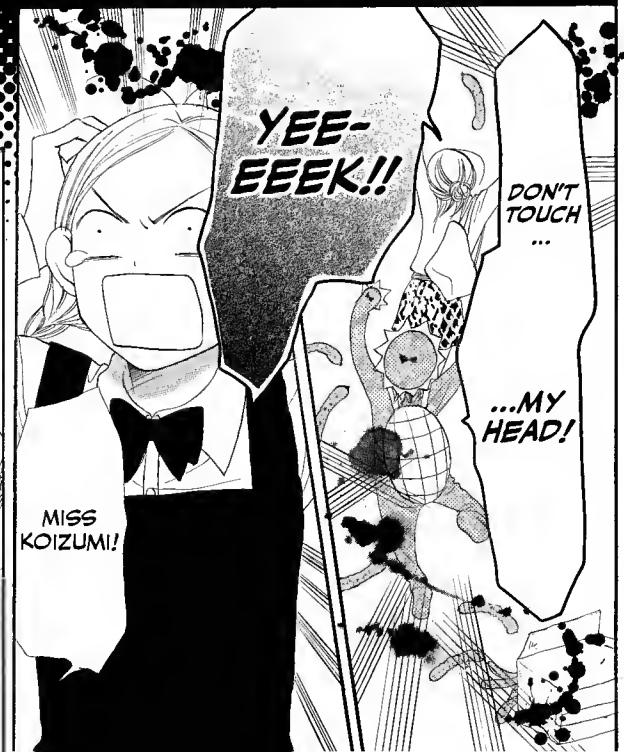
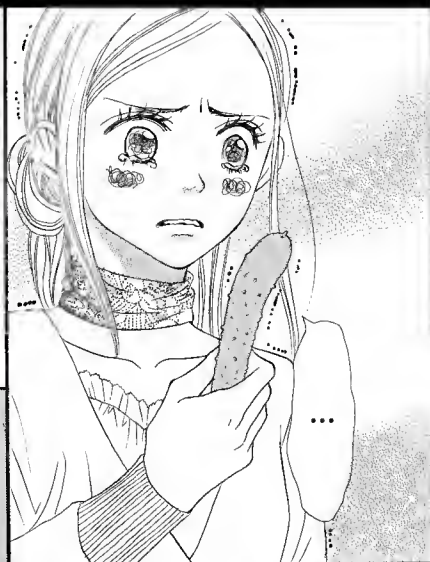
To research the first chapter in this volume, I went to a location shoot with models from *Seventeen* magazine. It was so bright. The shoot started early in the morning, and everything was all sparkly. The models, I mean. Each time the shutters went off, they smiled and posed. They were amazing. They were so thin it seemed like they'd break if you touched them. And they were young, yet so mature.

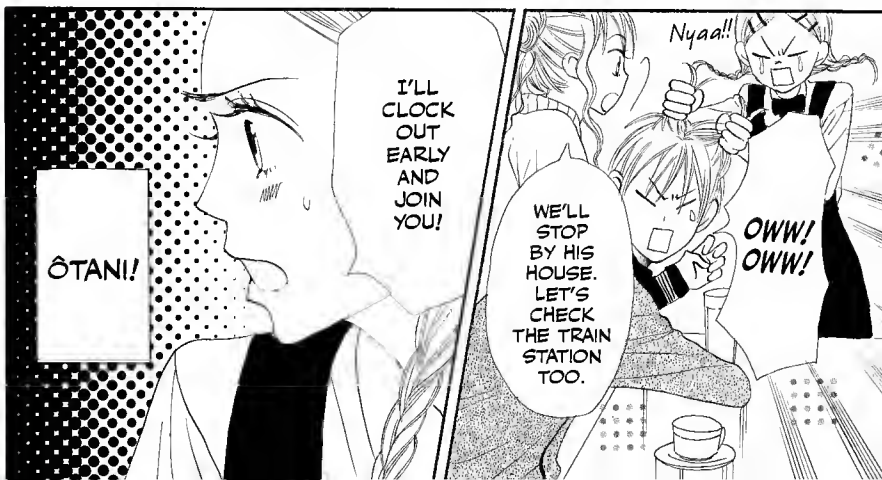
I really admire them. I learned a lot.

When I was 17, I had no drive at all. On the day of the school cultural festival, I always played hooky (since you don't get marked absent). On athletics day I just sat and watched with my slacker friends. Can I relive my youth and put in more of an effort?













Heh

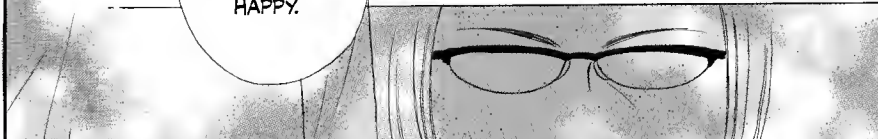
BUT
SHE HAS
A BOY-
FRIEND.

WELL,
YEAH.

STRAIGHT
UP. DO
YOU HAVE
A THING
FOR RISA?

I
KNOW
HIM.

I JUST
WANT
KOIZUMI-
SAN
TO BE
HAPPY.



HE TRIED
SO HARD...
BUT HE
DIDN'T
MAKE IT.

HE
TRIED
...



AWW





I
CALLED
HIS
HOUSE,
BUT NO
DICE.

He didn't
answer.

RISA!

HE
MUST BE
TOTALLY
DEPRESSED...

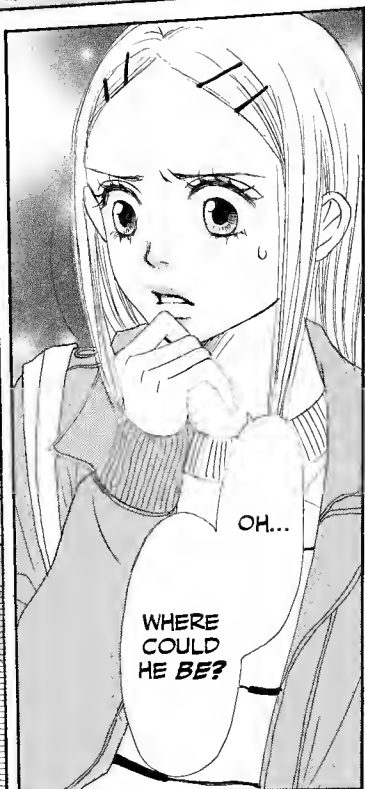
S
O
R
R
Y!



IT'LL
BE
OKAY,
ÔTANI.


WE'LL LOOK
AROUND HIS
HOUSE. RISA,
YOU WANNA
CHECK THE
TRAIN STATION?

OKAY!



OH...

WHERE
COULD
HE BE?



IF YOU
HAVE TO
STUDY
FOR
ANOTHER
YEAR...

EVEN
IF YOU
DIDN'T
MAKE IT,
THERE'S
ALWAYS
NEXT
YEAR.

...I'LL BE
THERE TO
SUPPORT
YOU.

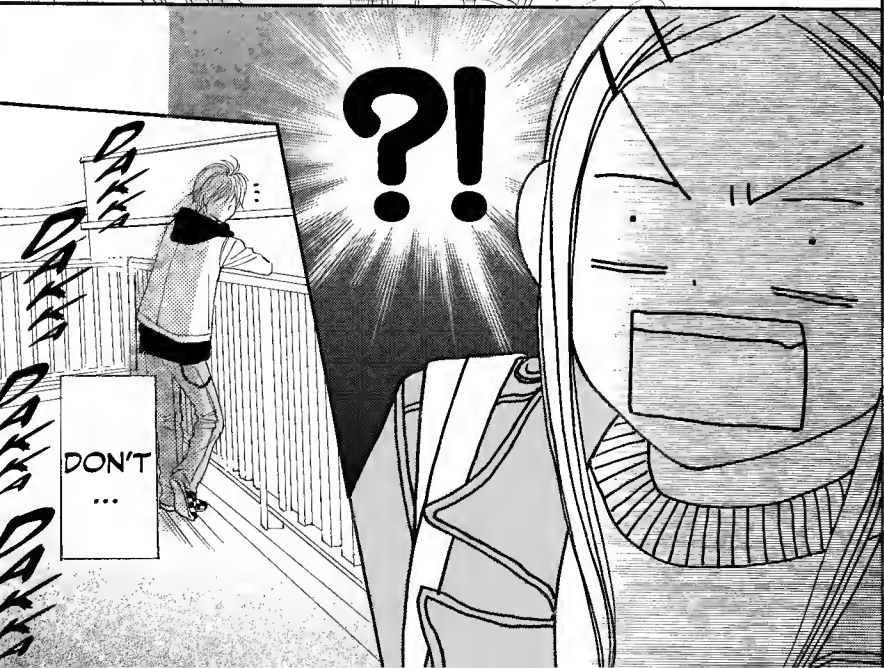
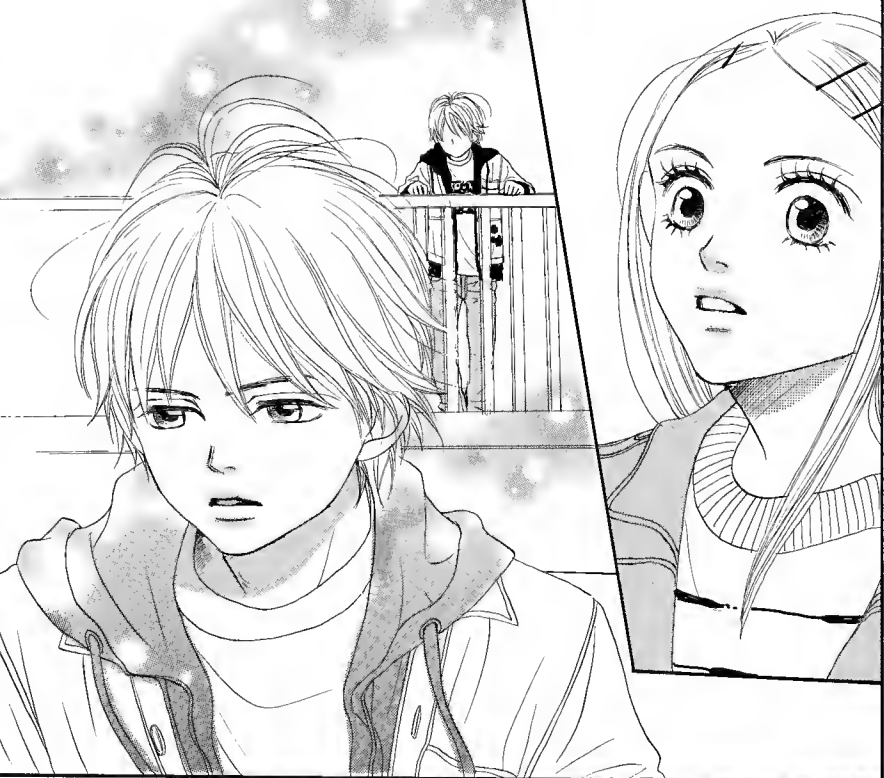


ÔTANI!



JUST
DON'T...

**WHERE
ARE
YOU,
ÔTANI?**





GRAB

WAAH!!

NO, STANI!

**DON'T
THROW
YOUR
LIFE
AWAY!**



**I'D
RATHER
SEE YOU
TURN
INTO A
KAPPA!!**

**WHO'S
GONNA
DIE,
STUPID?**



**PUT ME
DOWN!**

HUH?

**DON'T
DIE!**



HUH?





NO WAY...
HOW?

AHHH

...



IT'S
JUST...

WHAD-
DYA
MEAN,
"HOW"?



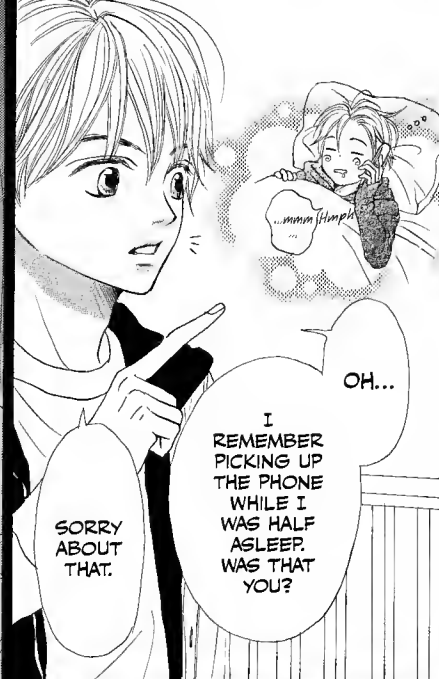
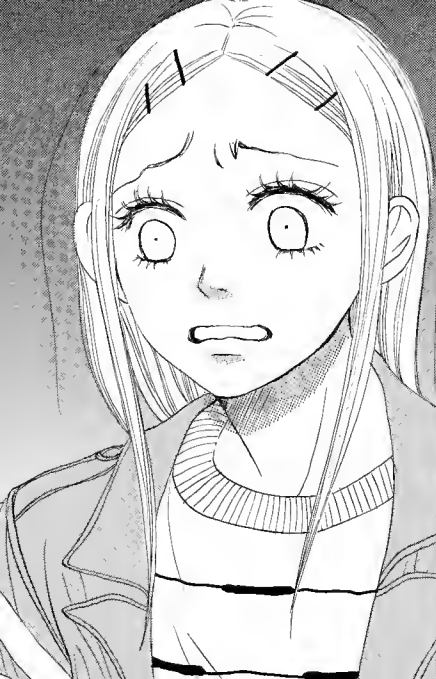
YOU
DIDN'T
ANSWER
YOUR
PHONE!

YEAH,
CUZ
I WAS
NAPPING.

I'D
BEEN
UP ALL
NIGHT...

OH YEAH.
I WAS SO
RELIEVED
I FELL
ASLEEP.

I
HEARD
YOU
WERE
SLUMPED
OVER
AT THE
TRAIN
STATION!



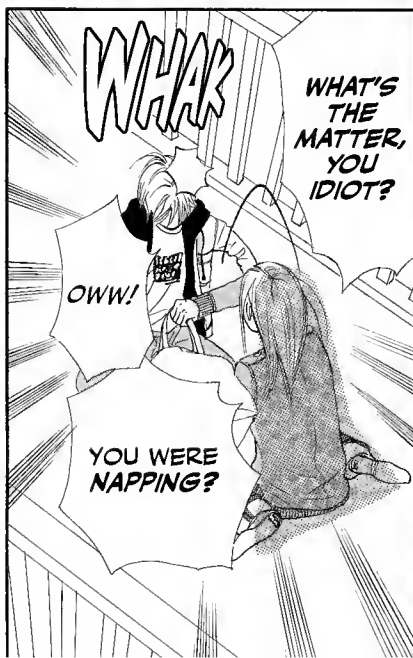
HE
MADE
IT...

CRIPES...
HE
PASSED.





HE
PASSED...



WHAH

WHAT'S
THE
MATTER,
YOU
IDIOT?

OWW!

YOU WERE
NAPPING?

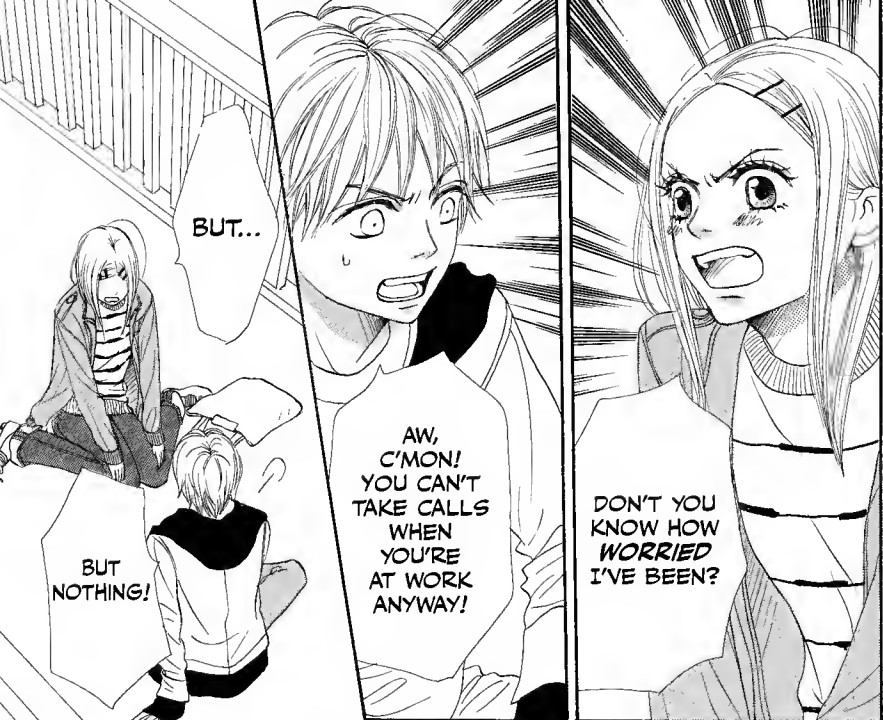


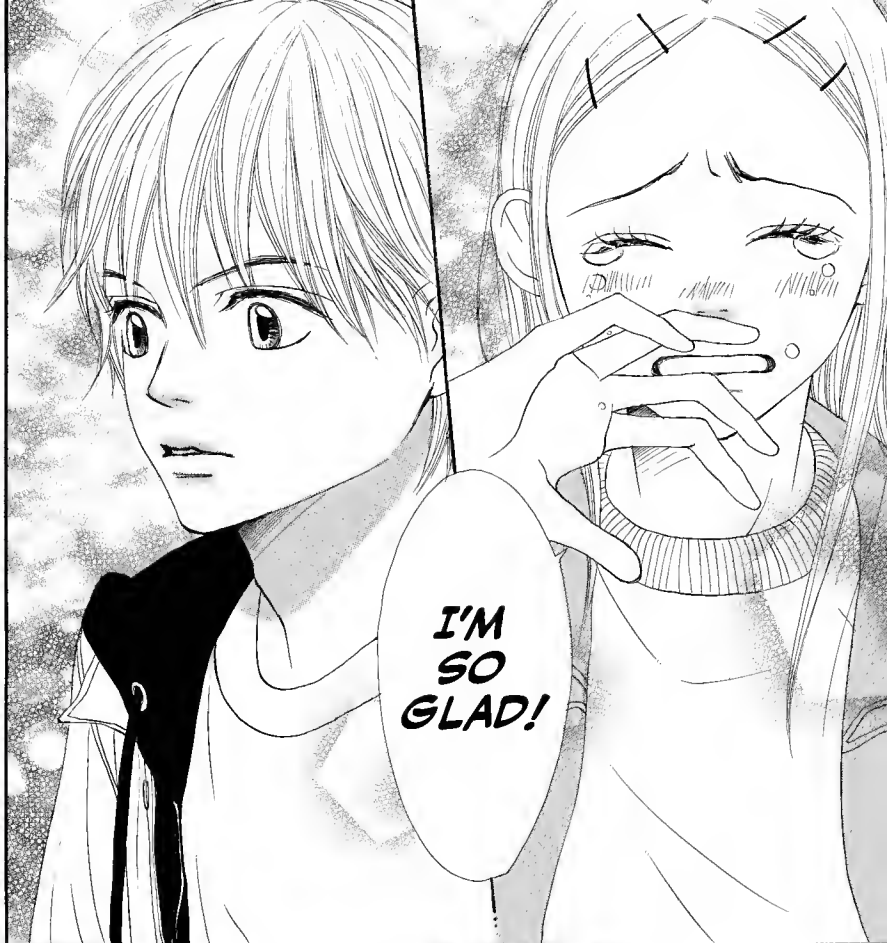
...

WHAT
...



WHAT'S
THE
MATTER?







heh
heh



BUT...

I'M
SO
HAPPY
FOR
YOU.

YOU
DON'T
HAVE
TO CRY.



HUH?

THANKS.

IT'S ALL
BECAUSE
OF YOU.

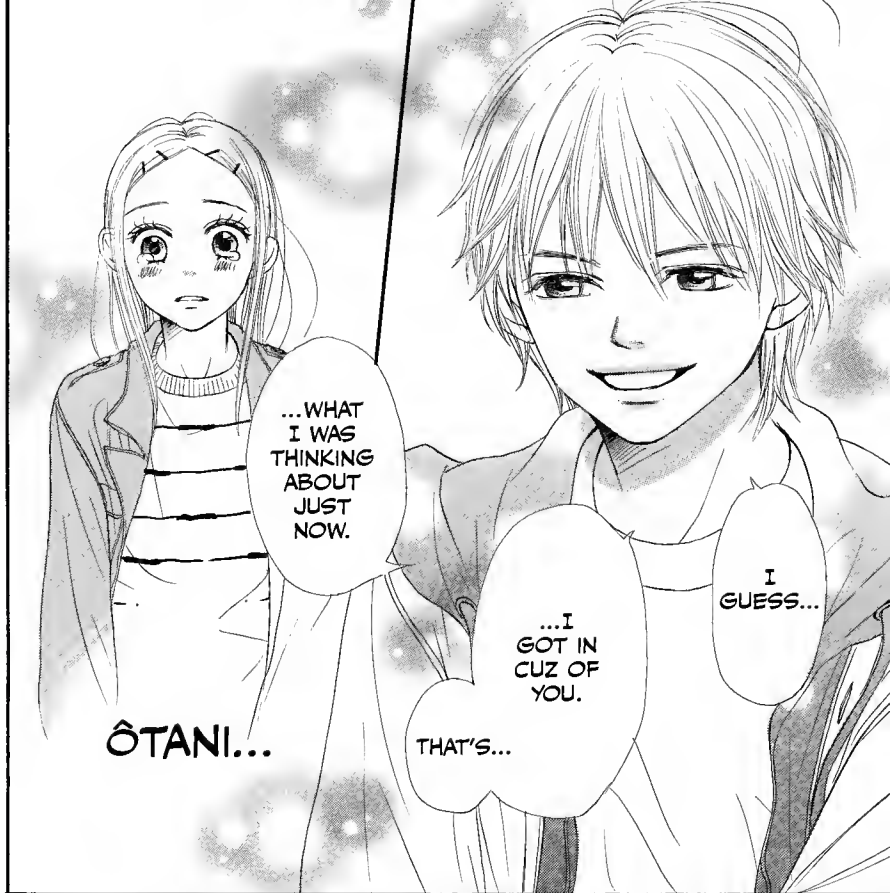
OTANI,
GO
FOR
IT!

I
WOULDN'T
HAVE
MADE IT.

IF YOU
HADN'T
BEEN
THERE
FOR
ME...

DON'T
THROW
IT ALL
AWAY.

HANG
IN
THERE.



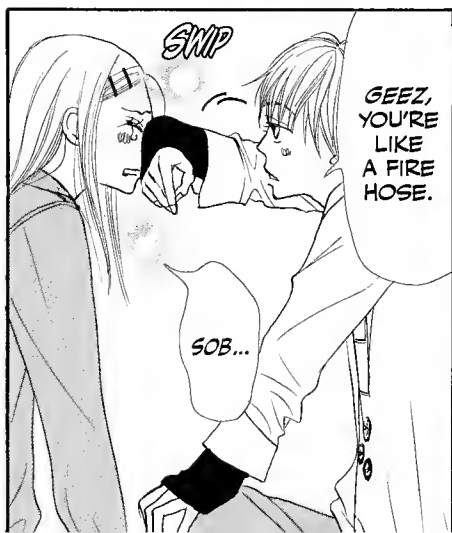
ÔTANI...

...WHAT
I WAS
THINKING
ABOUT
JUST
NOW.

...I
GOT IN
CUZ OF
YOU.

I
GUESS...

THAT'S...



SNIP

GEEZ,
YOU'RE
LIKE
A FIRE
HOSE.

SOB...

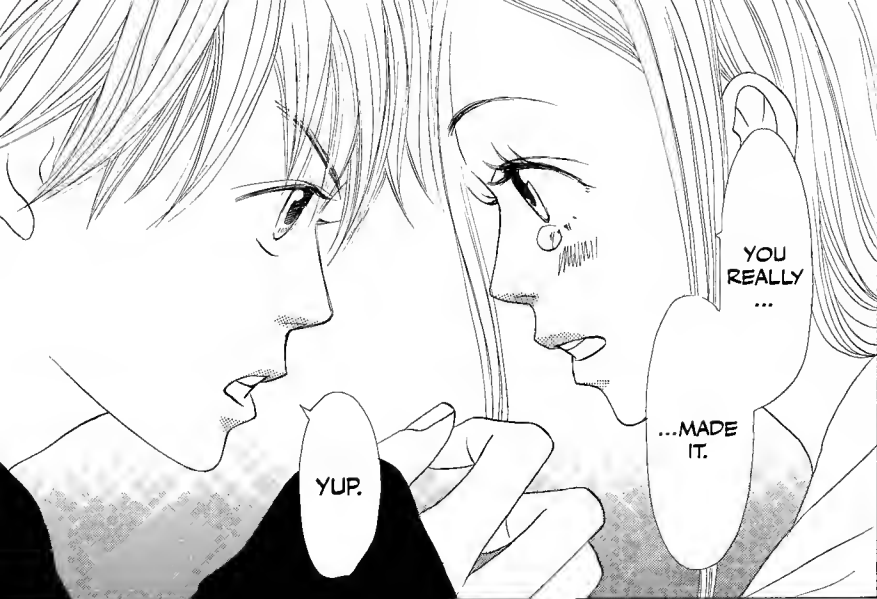


SNIP

RE...

REALLY?

...



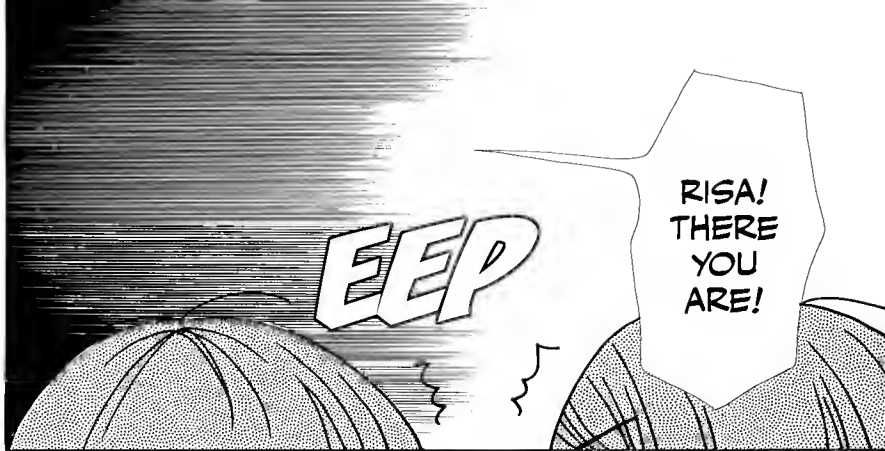
CON-
GRATU-
LATIONS,
ÔTANI.



I'M
GLAD.

I'M SO
GLAD.





RISA!
THERE
YOU
ARE!

EEP



AND
ÔTANI!

Here!

SHOO!



I MADE
IT INTO
COLLEGE!
WHERE'S
MY
PROPS?

WHAT'S
WITH
YOU
GUYS?

HOLD
IT!

IT'S
COOL
THAT YOU
SQUEAKED
BY.

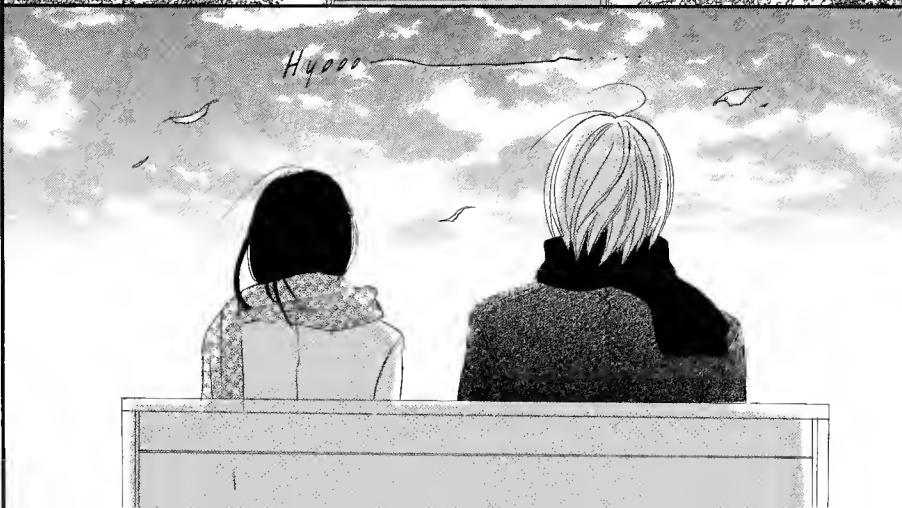
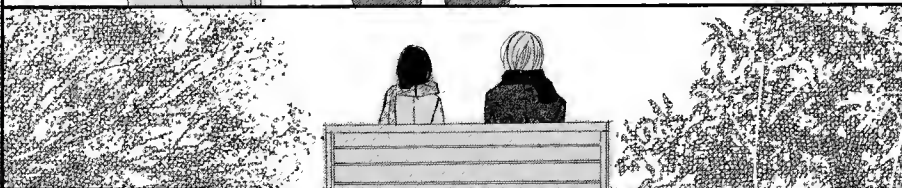
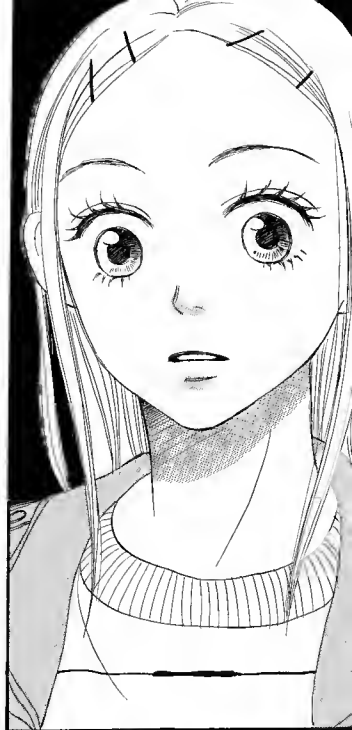


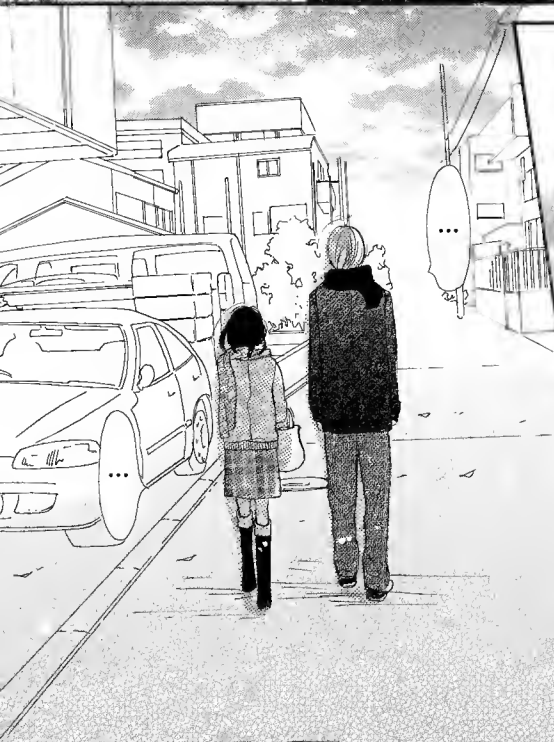
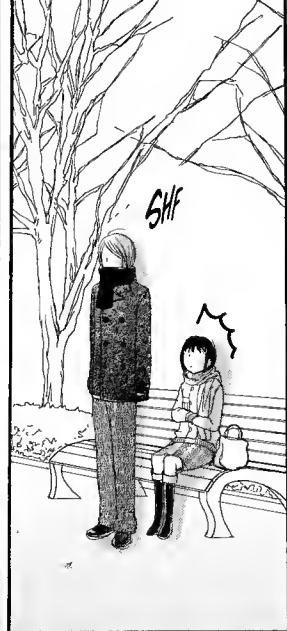
BUT
WHAT
ABOUT
...

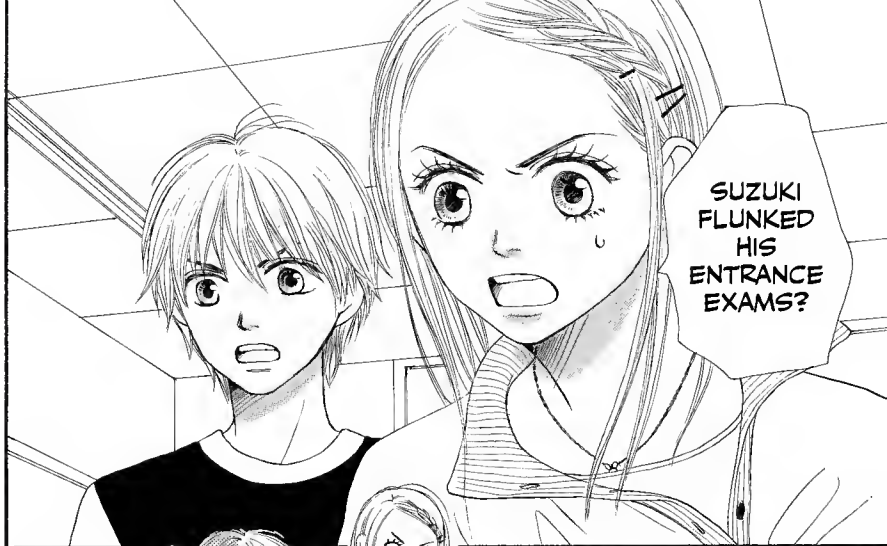
WHAT? NO
KIDDING?
I DON'T
BELIEVE
IT!

LISTEN,
ÔTANI
PASSED!









CHAPTER 47





YESH...
I THINK
SHO...

UM...
ARE YOU
ALL RIGHT
?

HE
REALLY
WANTED
TO GET
INTO THAT
COLLEGE,
SO ON THE
DAY OF THE
EXAM HE
GUZZLED
COUGH
SYRUP.

HE WAS
TOTALLY
OUT OF IT.
HE BARELY
REMEMBERS
THAT DAY.



CALM
DOWN,
CHIHARU!

WHAT
AM I
GOING
TO DO?

I
DON'T
KNOW
WHAT
TO SAY
TO HIM!



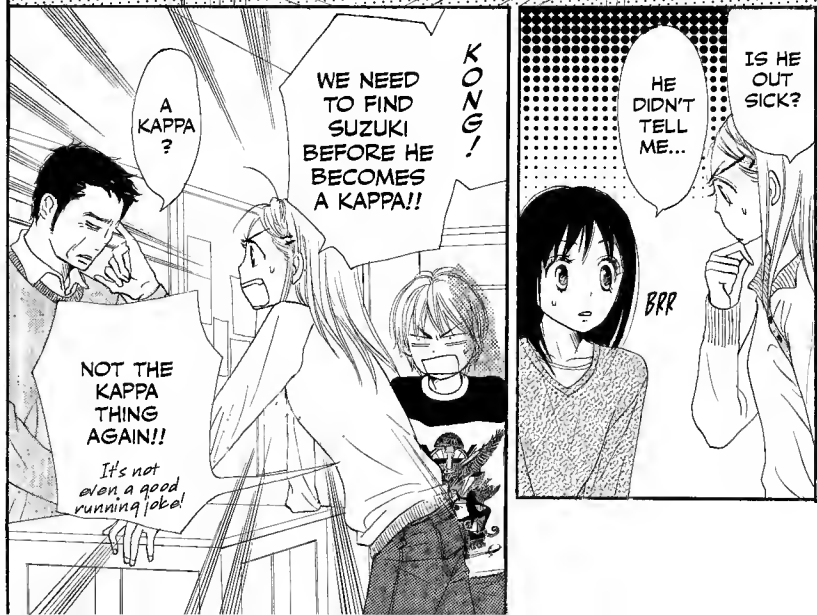
HE
NEVER
DID
TEST
WELL.

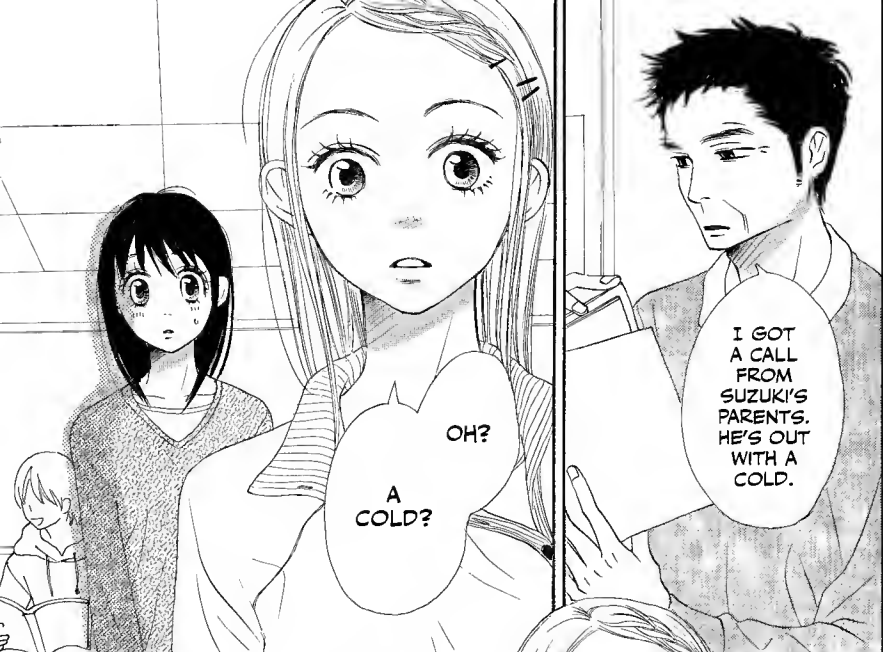
SO
SUZUKI'S
GONNA
BE A
RONIN.



I
NEVER
DID
THAT!!

SUZUKI'S
A LEVEL-
HEADED
GUY. HE
WON'T GO
CRAZY AND
DRESS
UP AS A
KAPPA LIKE
ÔTANI!





OH?
A
COLD?

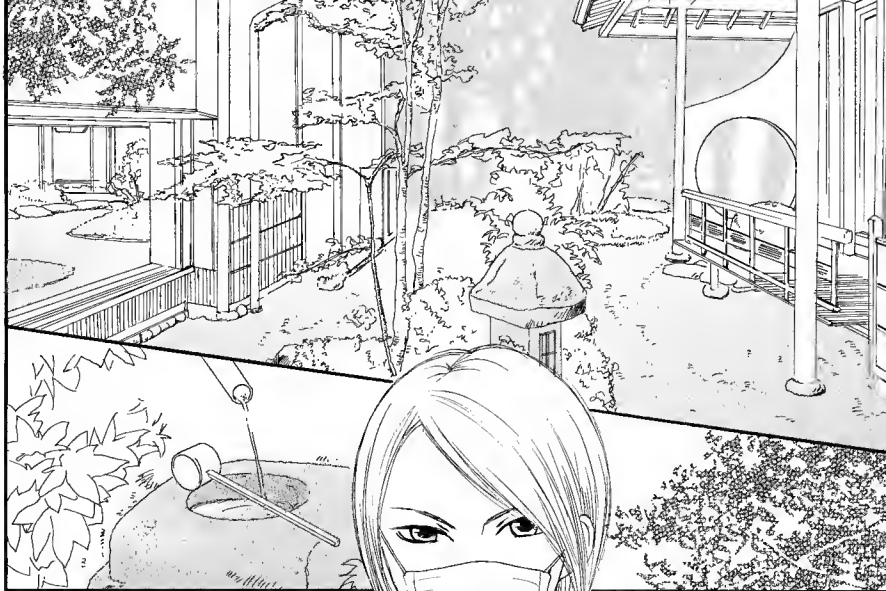
I GOT
A CALL
FROM
SUZUKI'S
PARENTS.
HE'S OUT
WITH A
COLD.

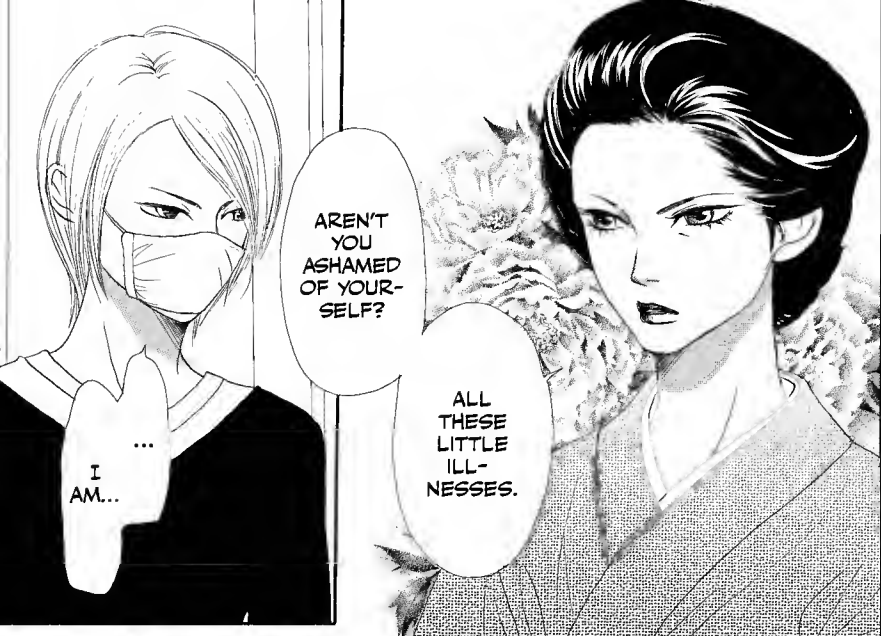
IT'S
SUCH A
SHOCK.

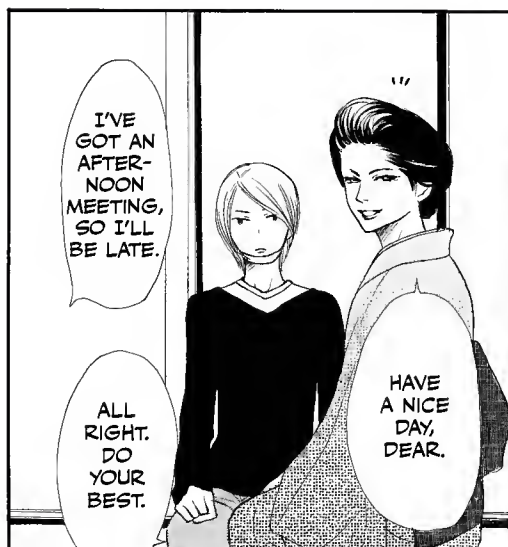
OKAY?
NOW
SIT
DOWN.

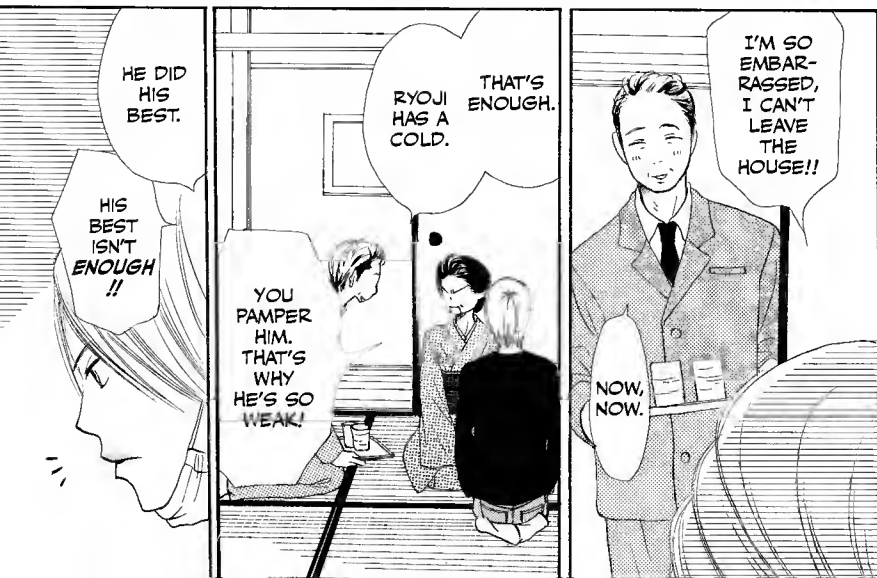
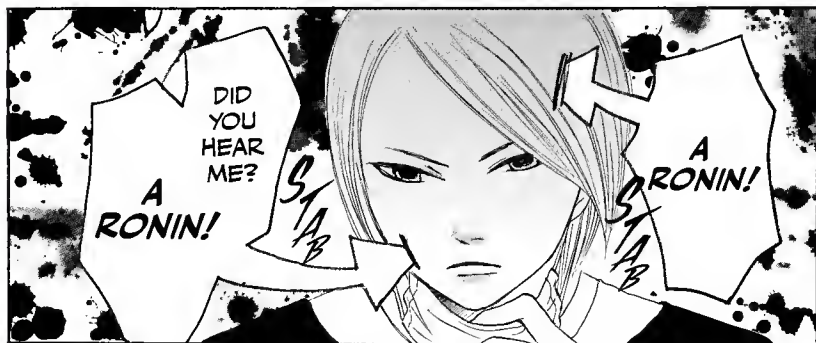
HE DIDN'T
MAKE IT
INTO ANY
COLLEGE.

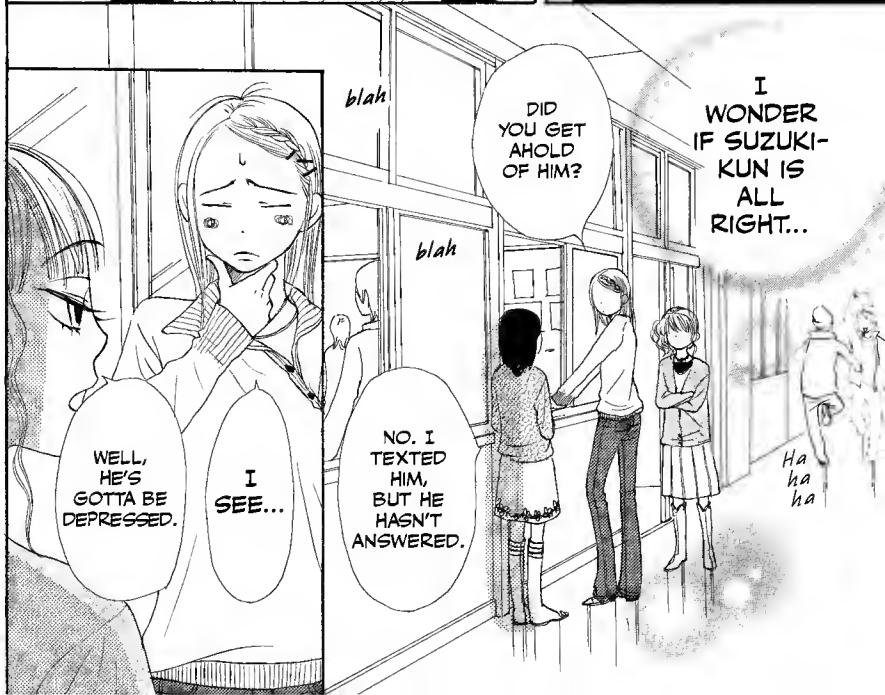
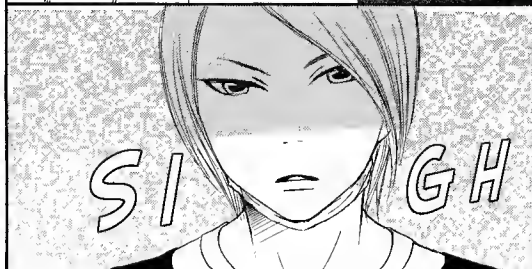
NO ONE
THOUGHT
SUZUKI
WOULDN'T
END UP
AT THE
COLLEGE
OF HIS
CHOICE.

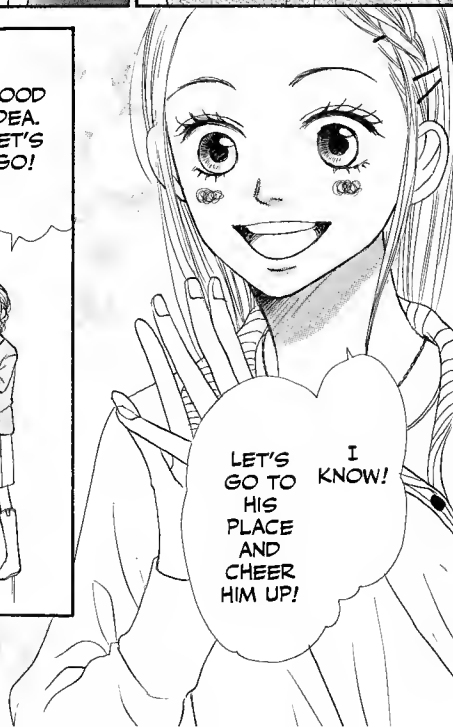
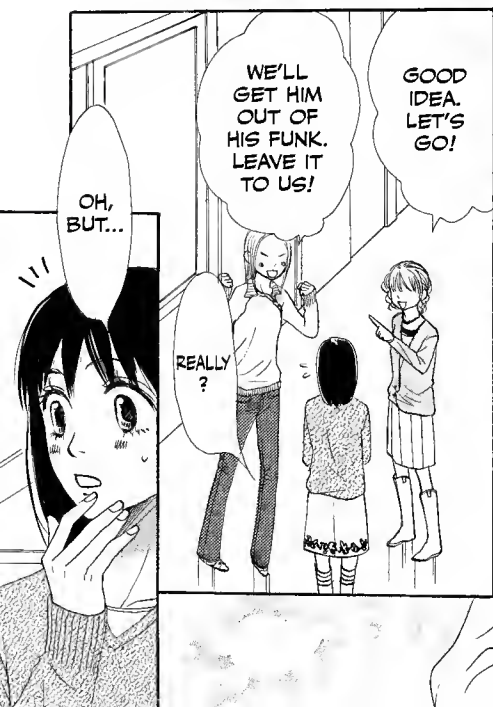


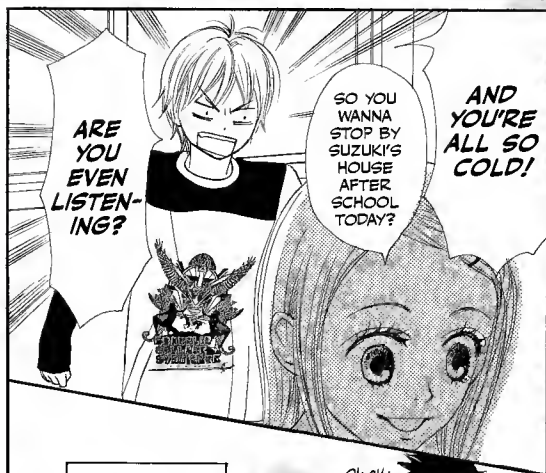


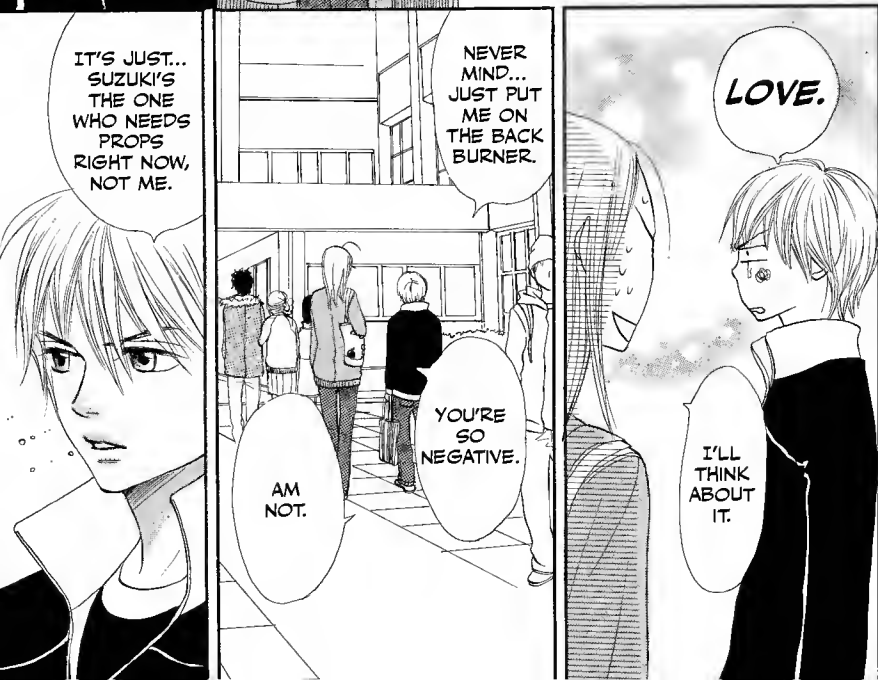
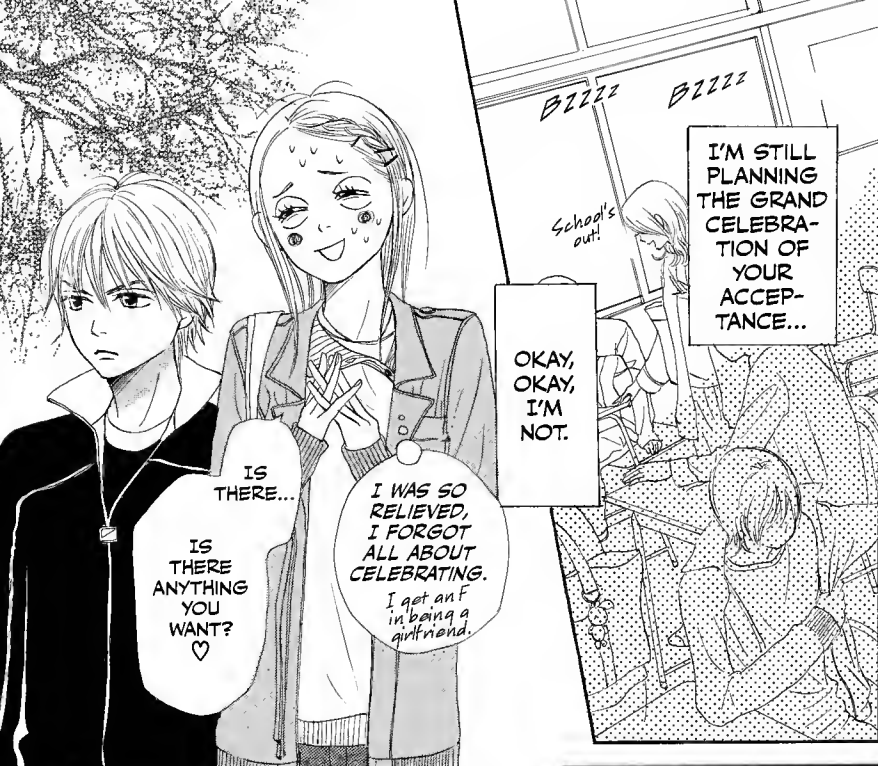


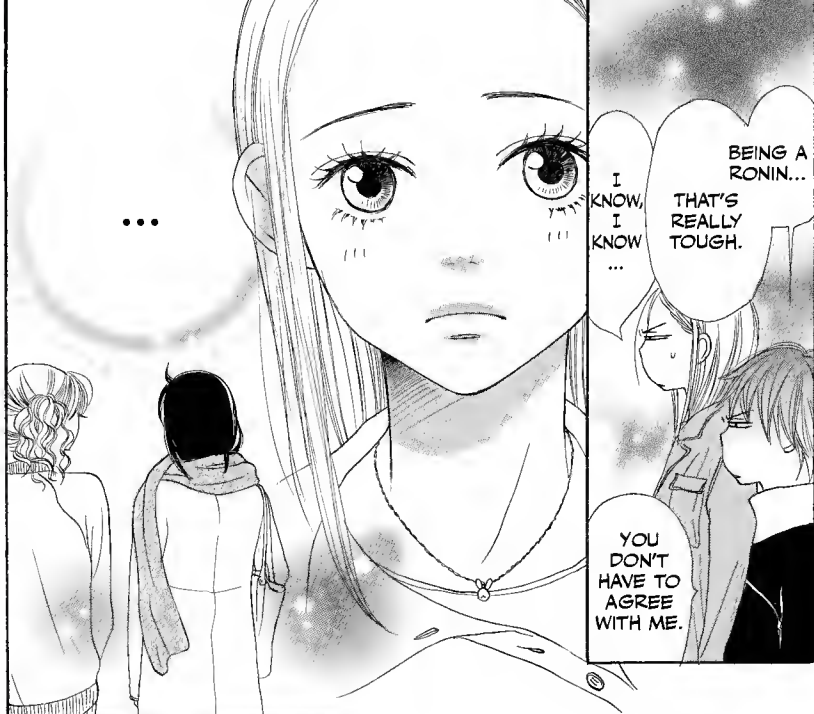












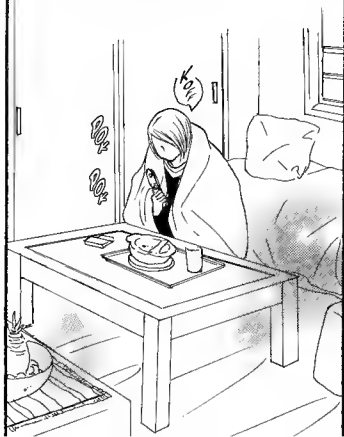
I
KNOW,
I
KNOW
...

BEING A
RONIN...
THAT'S
REALLY
TOUGH.

YOU
DON'T
HAVE TO
AGREE
WITH ME.

From Chiharu Tanaka
Subject Are you okay? へへ?

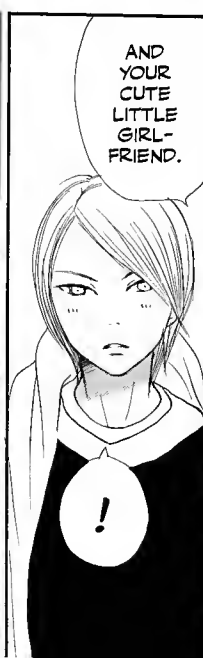
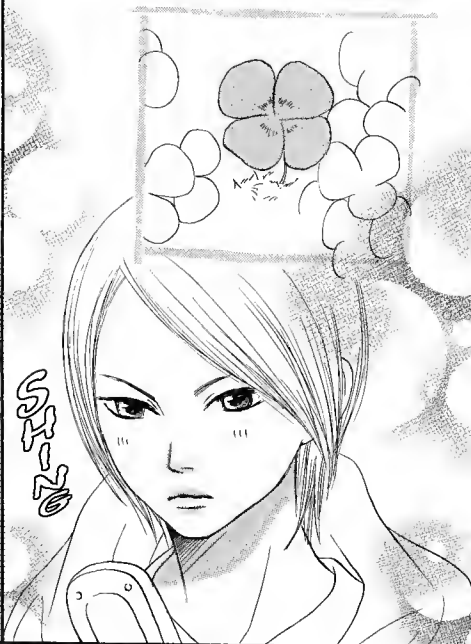
I found this while
sweeping the garden.
Hope it cheers you up.
See attached.



THING
IS, IT'S
ROUGH
ON
CHIHARU
TOO.

THEY
STUDIED
HARD
TOGETHER
TO GET
INTO THE
SAME
COLLEGE.





DAK

DAK

DAK

DAK

HUH?

HOWDY!

huff

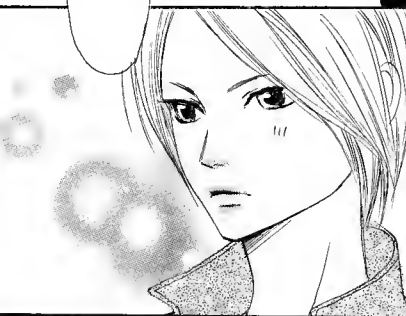
READY,
SET...

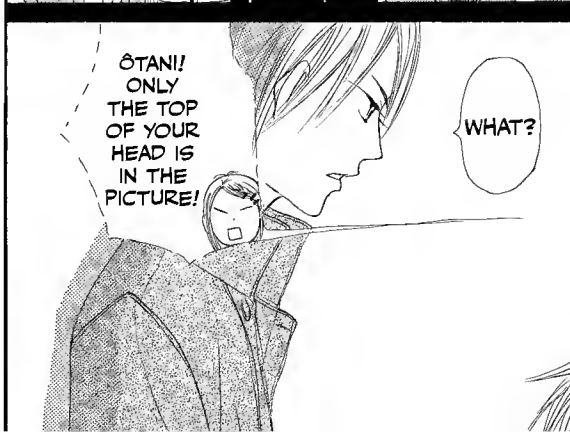
WE'RE
THE
SUZUKI
SQUAD,
HERE TO
CHEER
YOU UP!

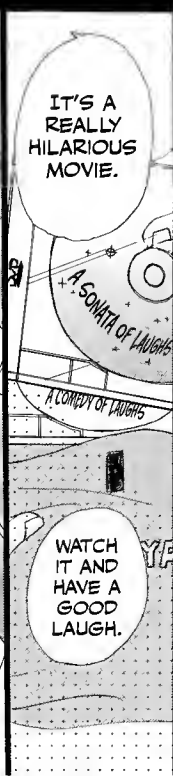
GO, GO,
SUZUKI!!

FIGHT
ON!

SUZUKI!

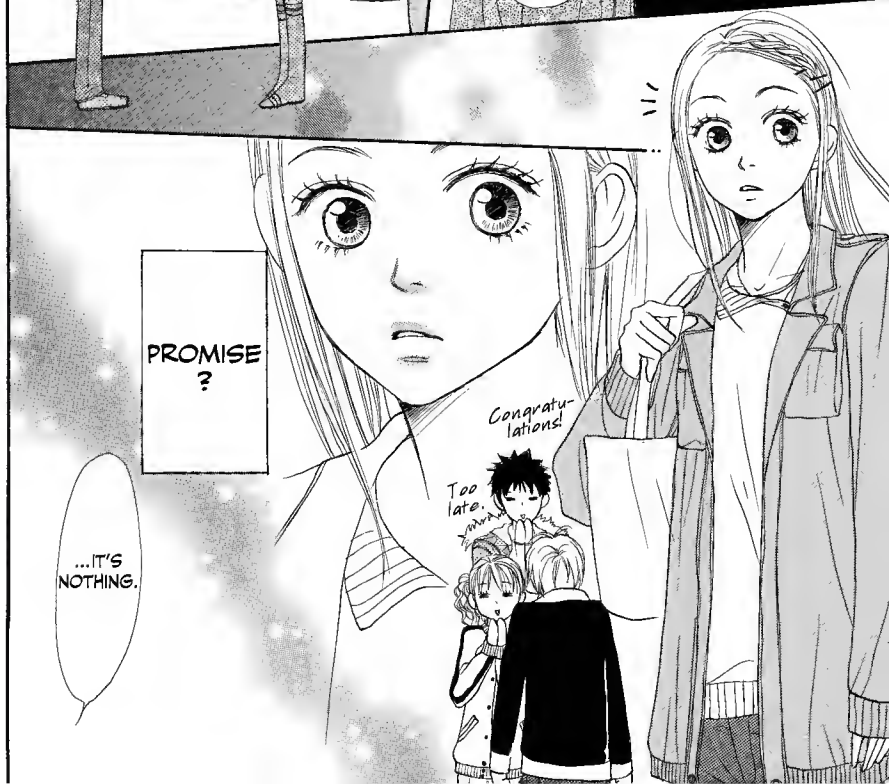
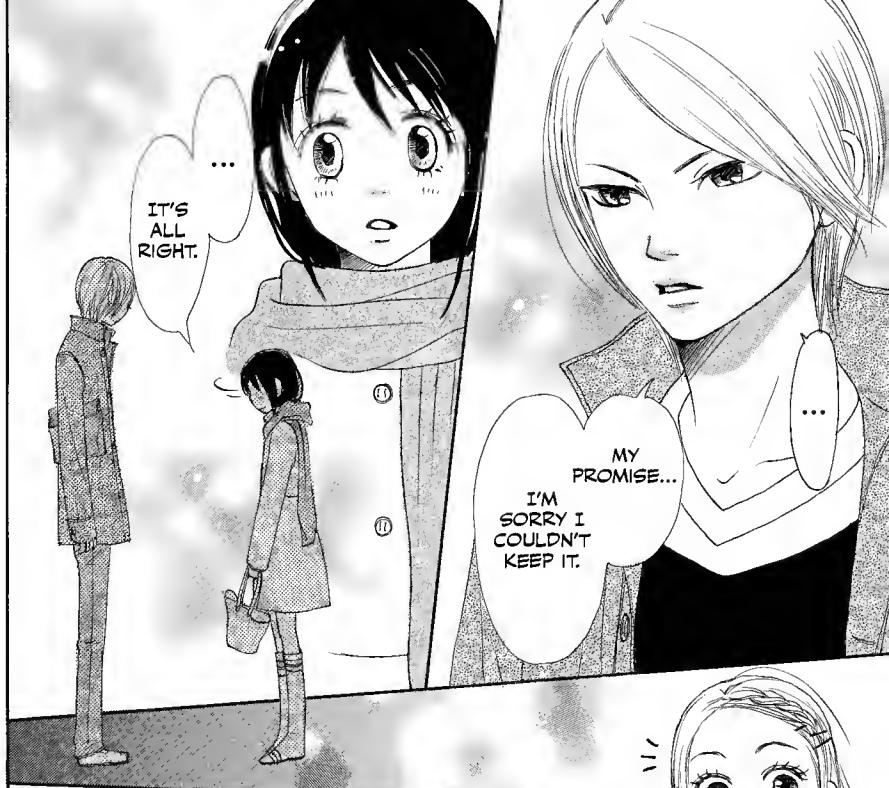


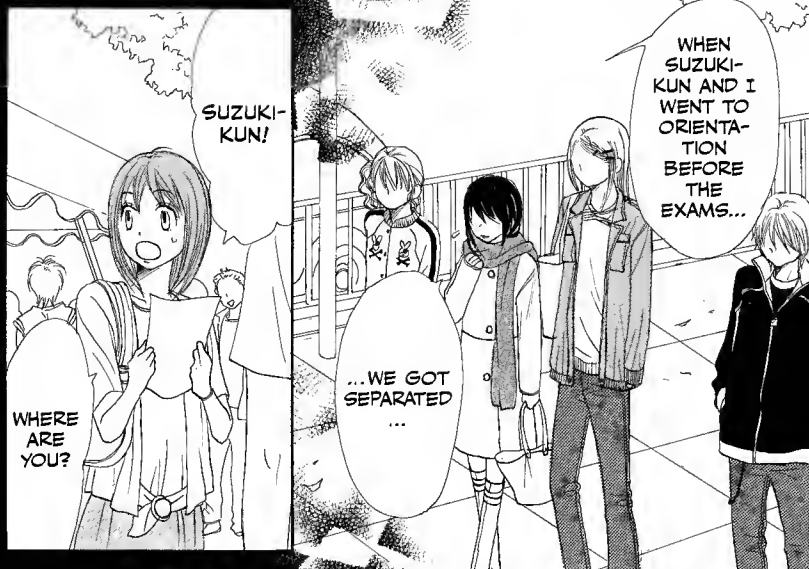












SUZUKI-KUN!

WHEN SUZUKI-KUN AND I WENT TO ORIENTATION BEFORE THE EXAMS...

...WE GOT SEPARATED ...

WHERE ARE YOU?



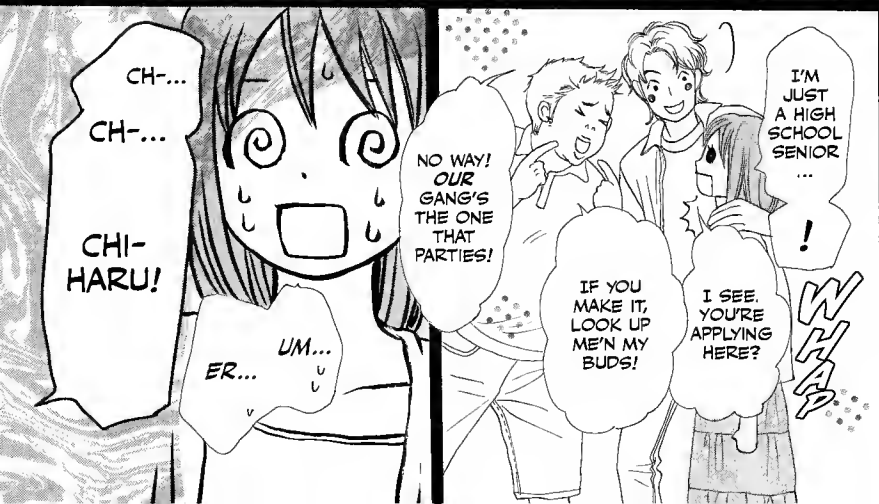
UM...
ER...

WHAT'S YOUR MAJOR?

YOU BUSY, BABE?
♡

CHECK OUT THE HOTTIE!
♡

HEY!



CH-...
CH-...

CHI-HARU!

UM...
ER...

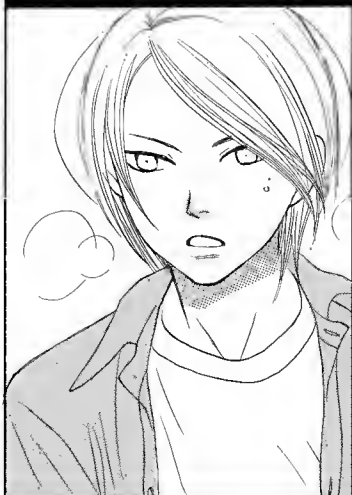
NO WAY! OUR GANG'S THE ONE THAT PARTIES!

IF YOU MAKE IT, LOOK UP ME'N MY BUDS!

I SEE. YOU'RE APPLYING HERE?

I'M JUST A HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR ...

WHA!



COLLEGE
IS SCARY.

Too
bad.

Boo...

Dang,
she's got a
boyfriend.



LIKE A
MOB!

I...

IT'S ALL
RIGHT,
CHIHARU!

I'M
NEVER
GONNA
MAKE
IT...



CHI-
HARU
...

UM...

TONS
OF
THEM!

ALL
THESE
STRANGE
GUYS HIT
ON ME.






I
SEE.



HE'LL BE
WORRYING
ABOUT HER
EVERY DAY.

BUT
NOW HE
CAN'T KEEP
THAT
PROMISE.

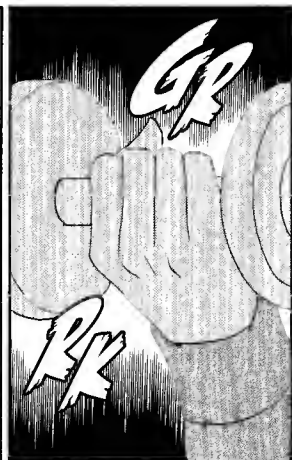
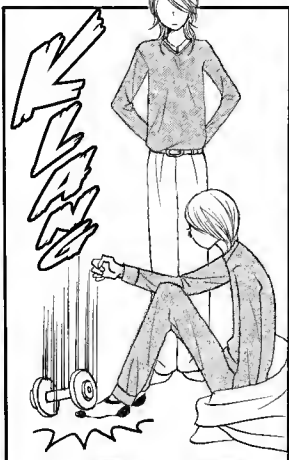
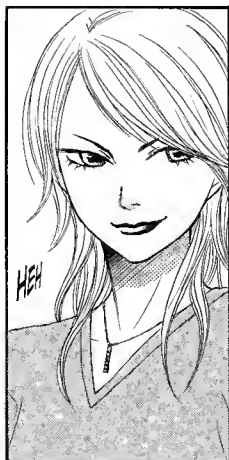
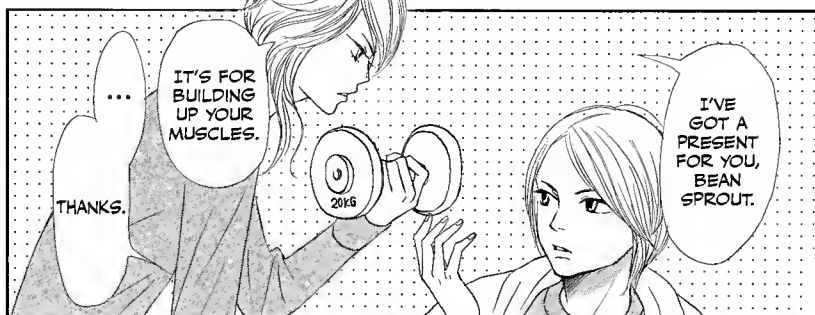
SHOOOF!



IT'S GOTTA
TEAR HIM
UP INSIDE,
BEING
UNABLE TO
KEEP A
PROMISE
LIKE THAT.

KLUK
KLUK
KLUK

USAYA



ALL
RIGHT!

I'LL
DO IT!





"WHILE
WE'RE
AT IT"?

AND
WHILE
WE'RE AT
IT, WE'LL
CELEBRATE
YOUR
SUCCESS
TOO.
♡

LET'S
HAVE
A BIG
PARTY TO
CHEER UP
SUZUKI!



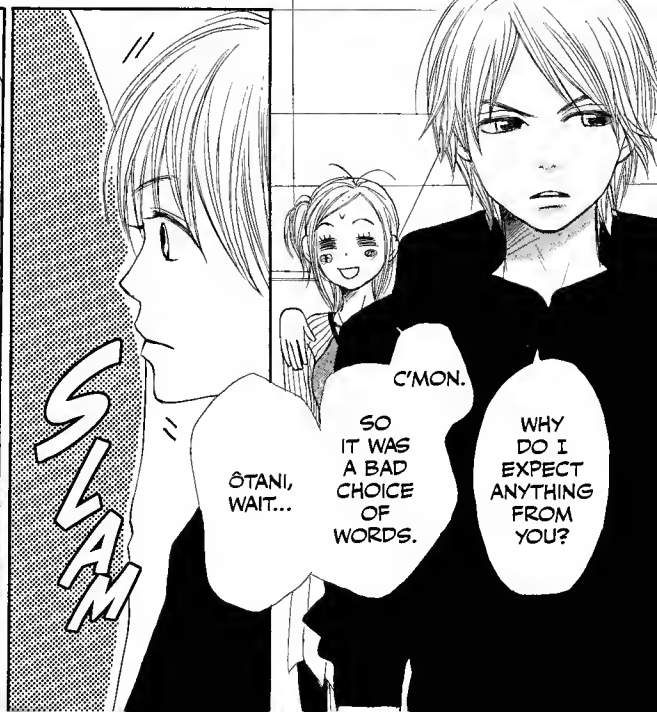
SLAM

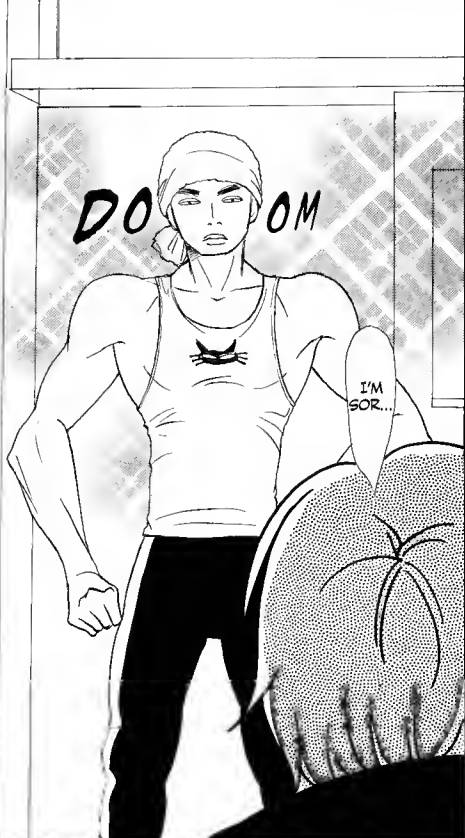
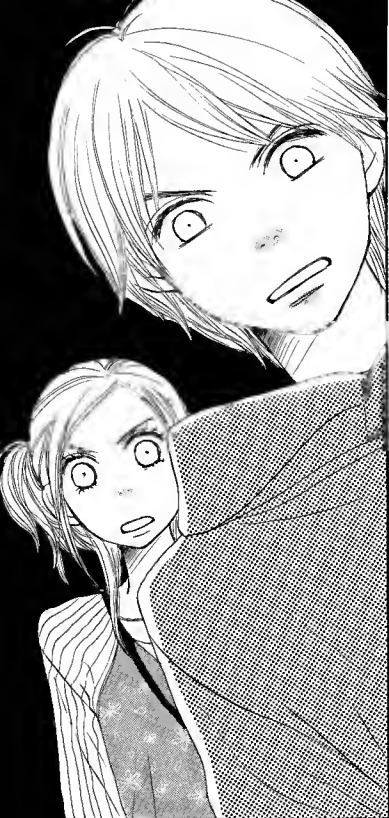
ÔTANI,
WAIT...

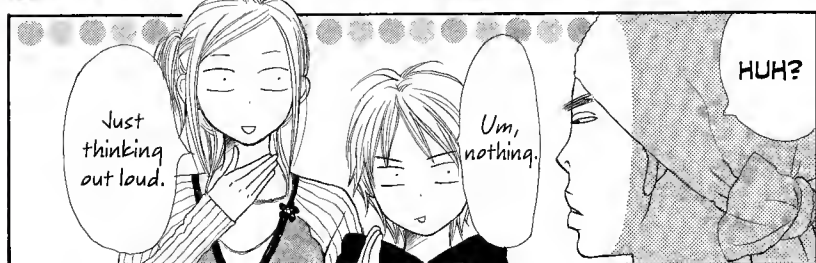
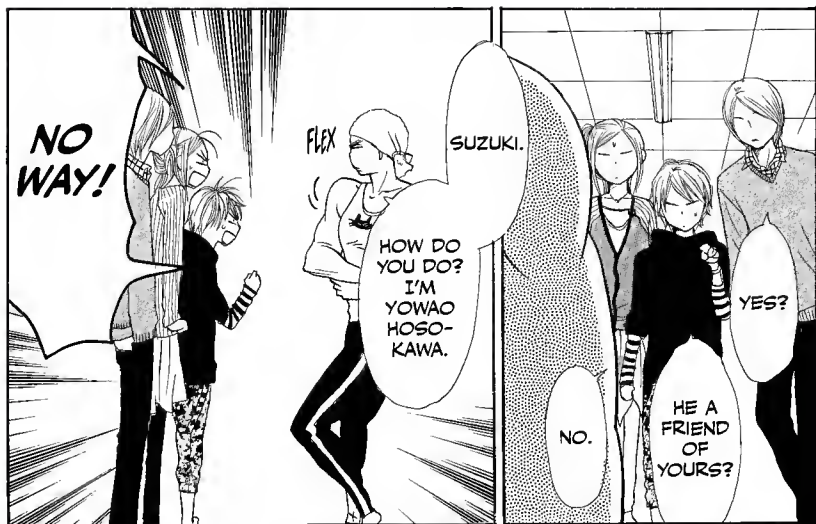
SO
IT WAS
A BAD
CHOICE
OF
WORDS.

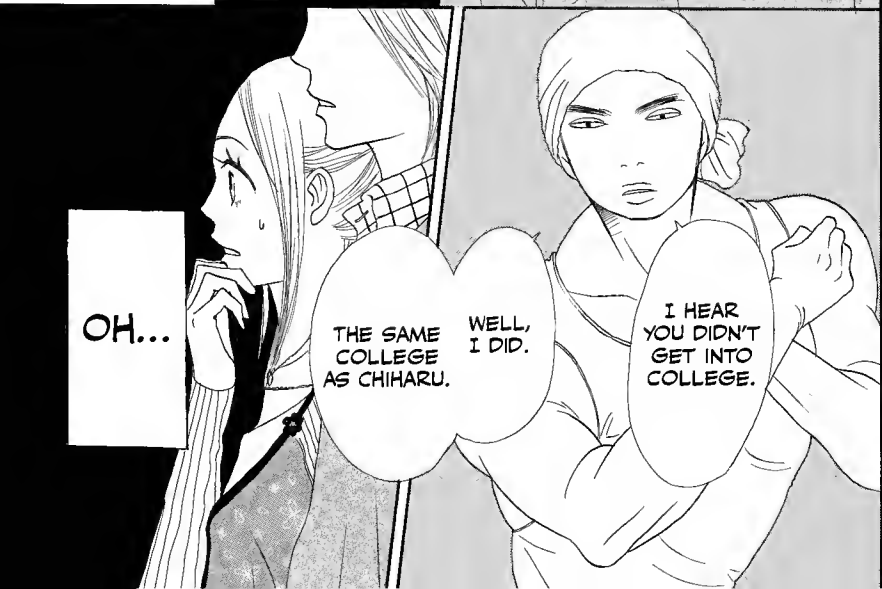
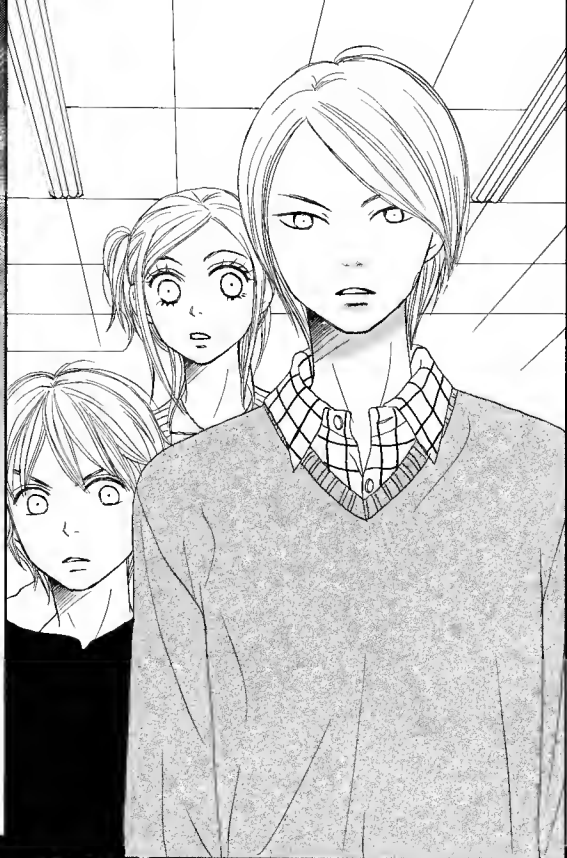
C'MON.

WHY
DO I
EXPECT
ANYTHING
FROM
YOU?







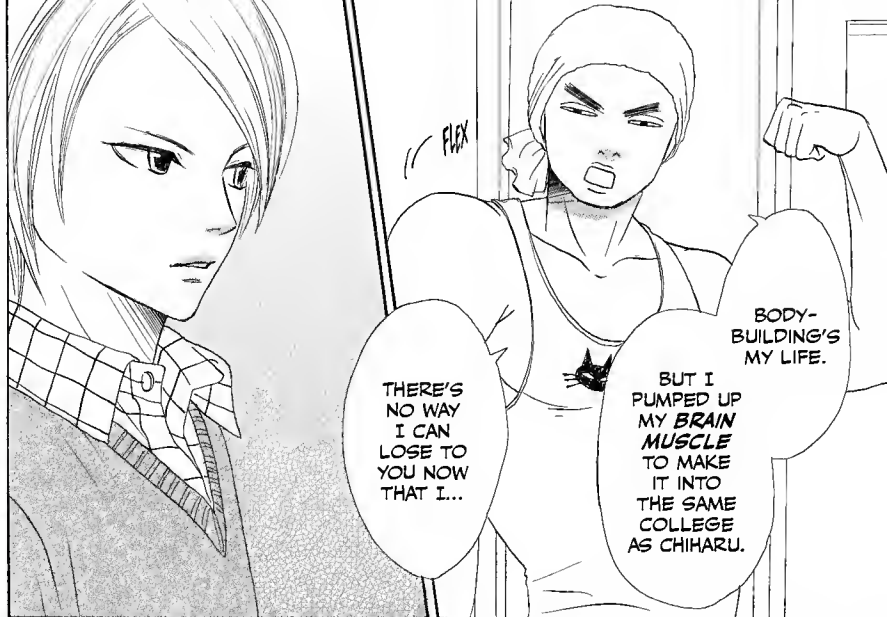


OH...

THE SAME
COLLEGE
AS CHIHARU.

WELL,
I DID.

I HEAR
YOU DIDN'T
GET INTO
COLLEGE.



THERE'S
NO WAY
I CAN
LOSE TO
YOU NOW
THAT I...

BODY-
BUILDING'S
MY LIFE.

BUT I
PUMPED UP
MY **BRAIN
MUSCLE**
TO MAKE
IT INTO
THE SAME
COLLEGE
AS CHIHARU.



WOULDJA
LOOK AT
THAT?

Hi,
pecc!
LOOK!
THEY
JIGGLE
EVERY
TIME HE
MOVES!

HEY,
CAN YOU
GUYS STOP
PLAYING
WITH MY
MUSCLES?

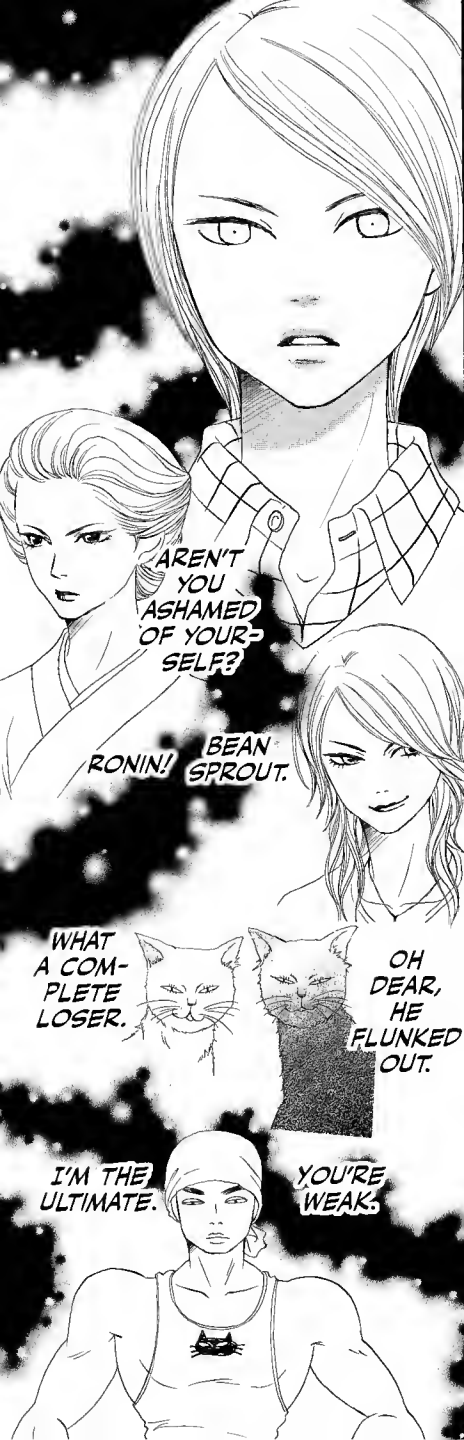


Eek!

Wah!



SO HOW
ABOUT IT,
SUZUKI?



AREN'T YOU
ASHAMED
OF YOUR-
SELF?

RONIN! BEAN
SPROUT.

WHAT
A COM-
plete
LOSER.

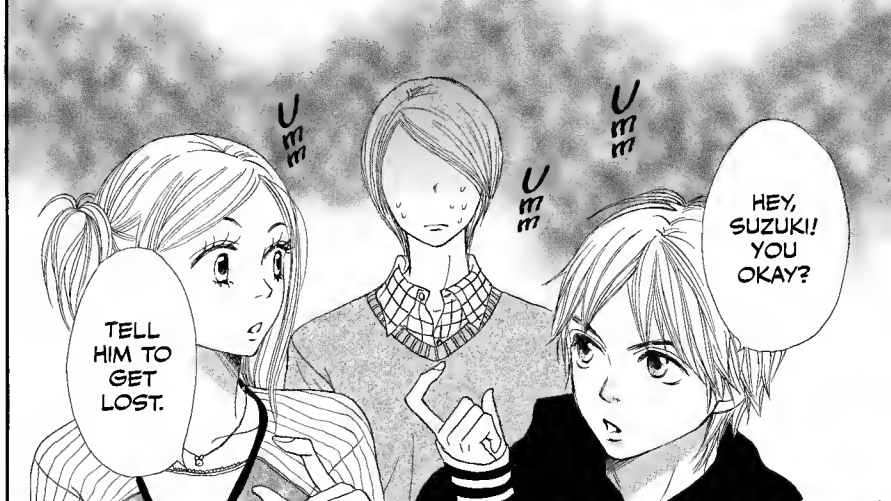
OH
DEAR,
HE
FLUNKED
OUT.

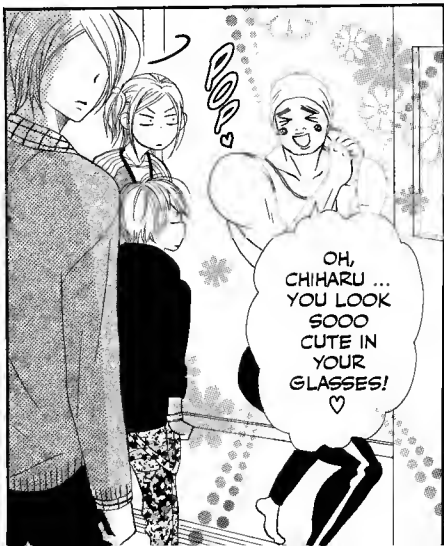
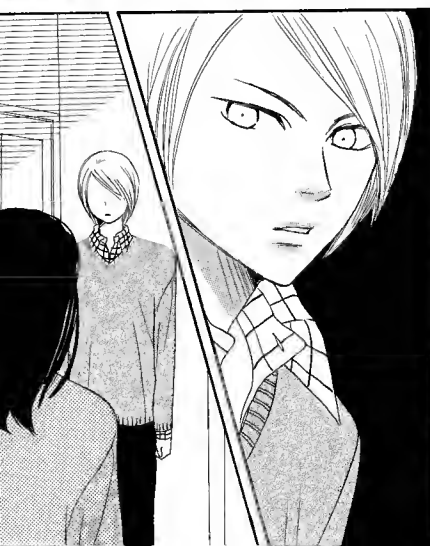
I'M THE
ULTIMATE.

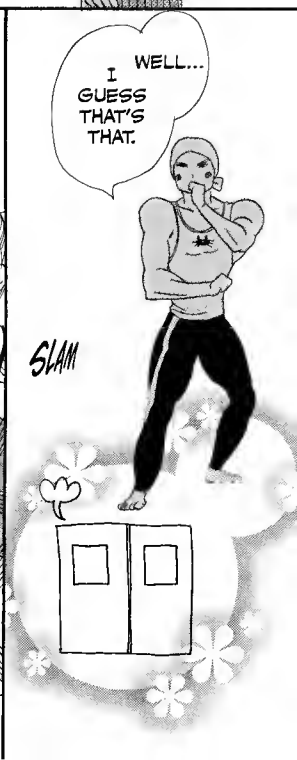
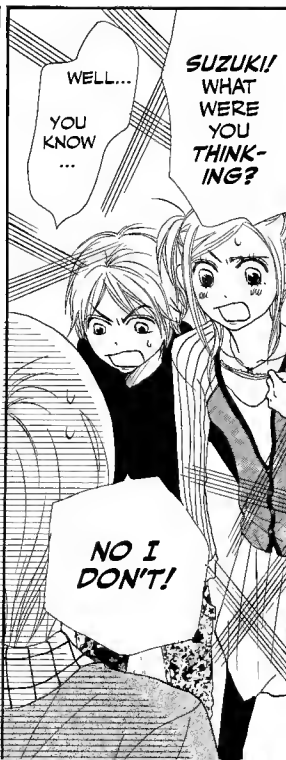
YOU'RE
WEAK.

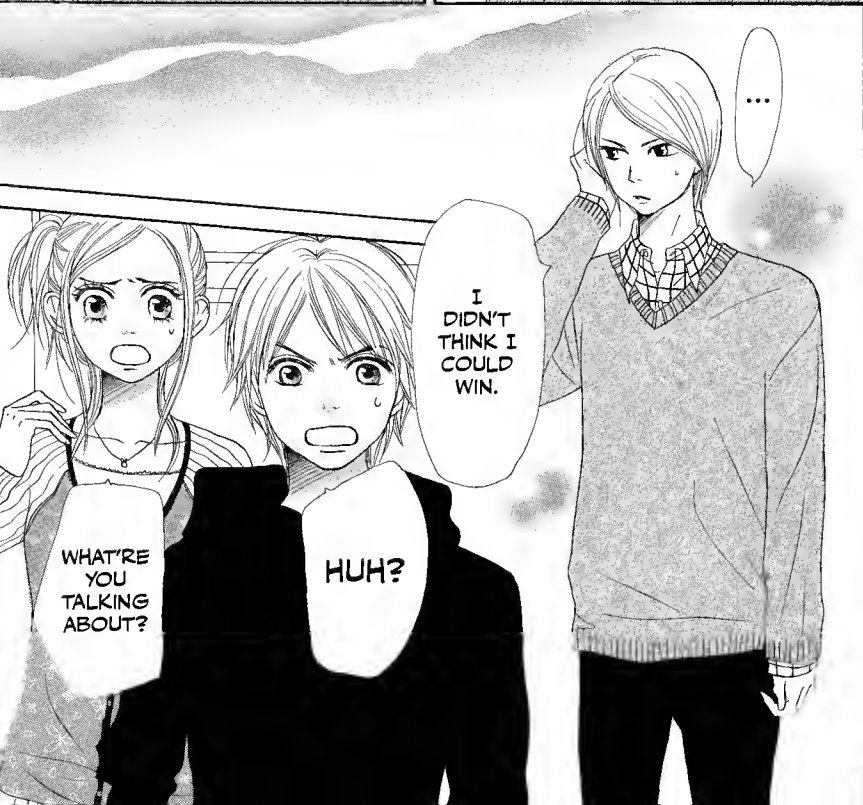
LET ME
HAVE
CHIHARU.















Umm...This happens every single time, but I can't think of a thing to write. Umm...



How about a freehand sketch? A rabbit...

I'll draw a rabbit. Make it look like a mascot.

Please say it's cute!
I'm trying super hard.

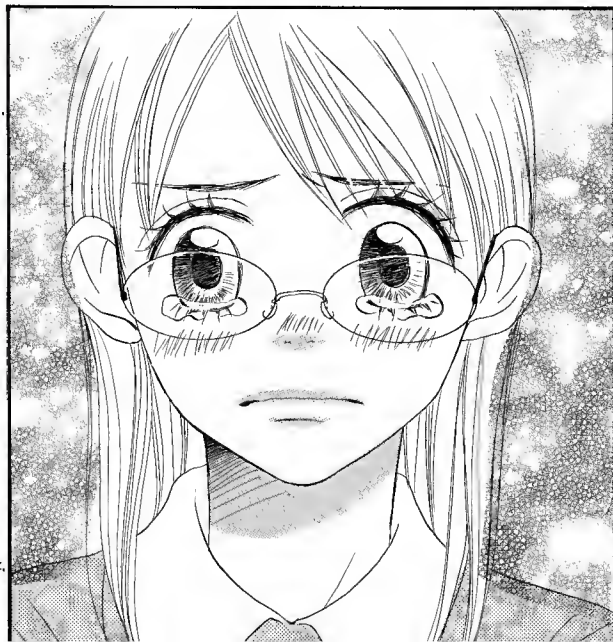
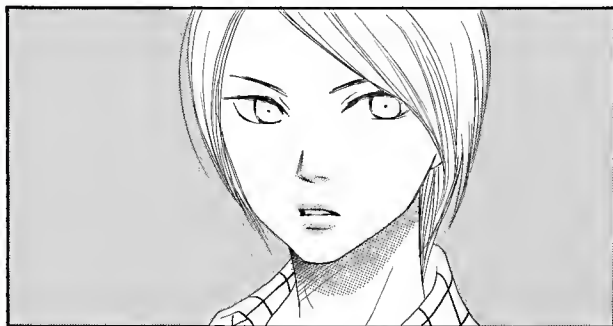


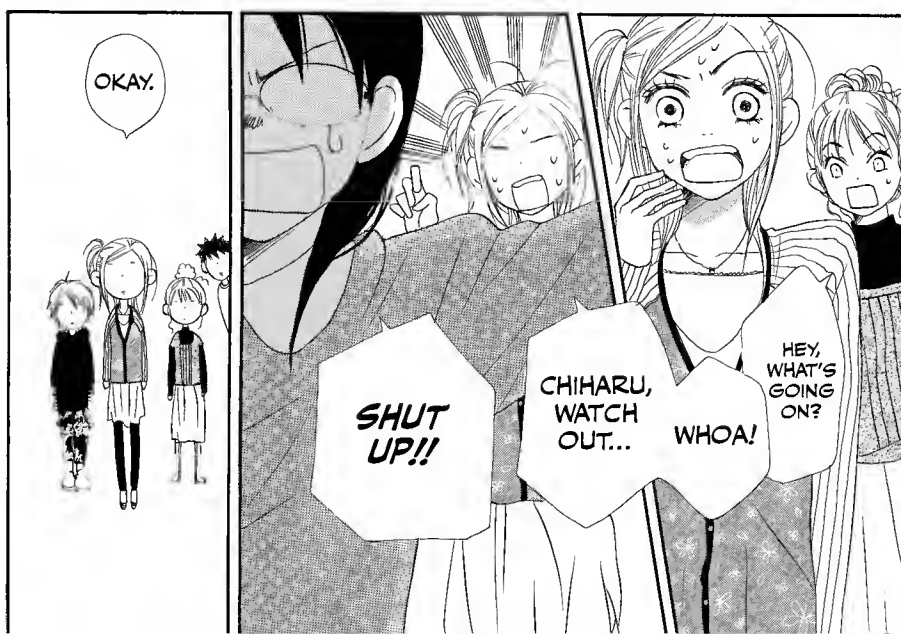
I used to draw rabbits a lot, but I'm really into bears right now.

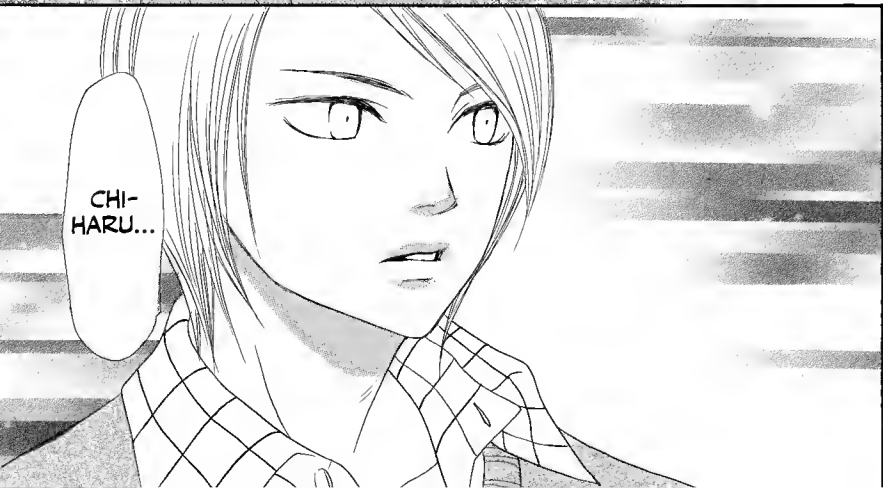
I mean really into bears. This collector's fever... is it curable? My room's full of bears. I just bought another teddy bear. I love bears so much I think I'm turning into one.

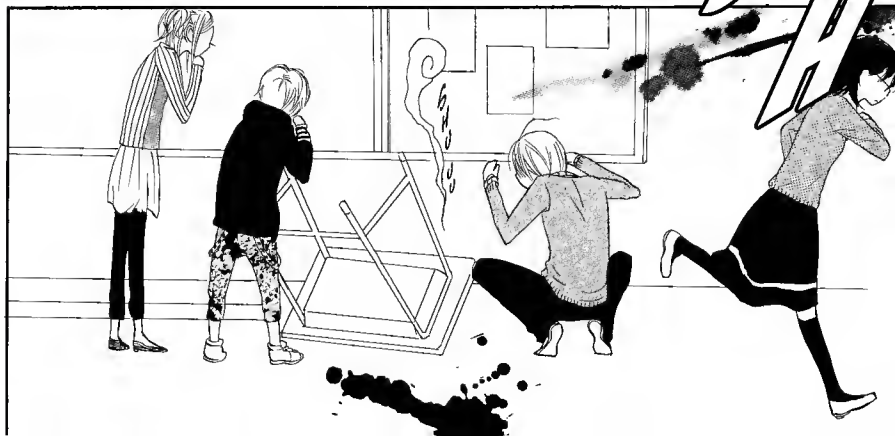


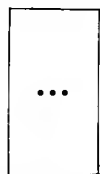
It'd be cool if I could do this.











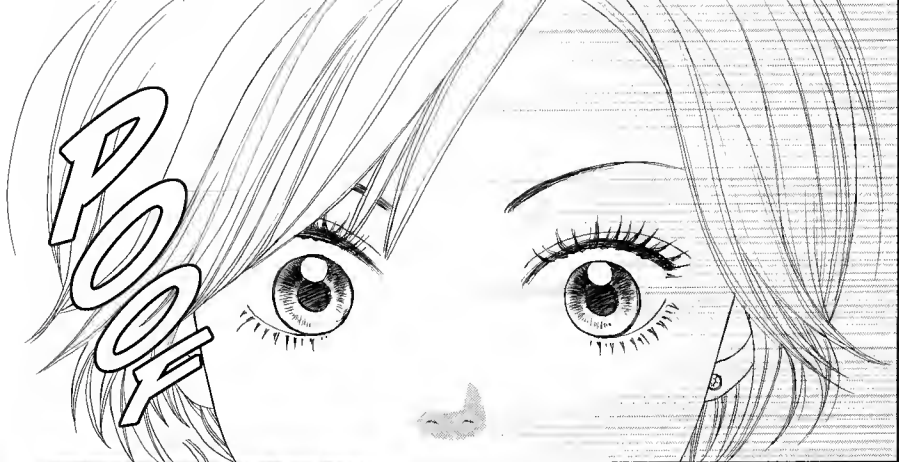
《...to be continued》





**I'LL LOVE YOU EVEN IF
I BECOME A STAR**







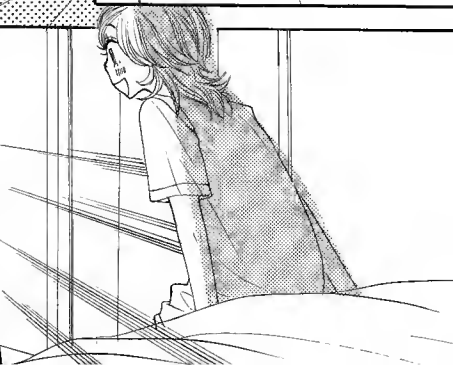
CHAK

...I
WAS IN
HARUKI'S
ROOM.

WHEN I
WOKE
UP...



HARUKI!



THEY
HAD A
PHOTO
OF ME
WITH
FUNERAL
BANDS.



APPARENTLY
I'D DIED
THREE DAYS
BEFORE.

I
SAW
HER!



**G
Y
A
A
!**

I
TRIED
GOING
HOME.



IT'S TRUE, I TELL YOU!

CAN YOU TALK SOME SENSE INTO HIM, TOMI?

IT'S ALL HE'S BEEN TALKING ABOUT SINCE THIS MORNING.

YOU SEE?



IT WAS REINA!

SHE WAS THERE!



Can you two keep it down?

THAT'S RIGHT.



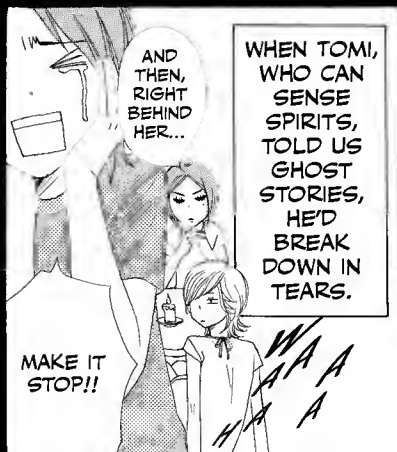
WHAT? SHE'S BEEN STANDING HERE THE WHOLE TIME.



I KNOW YOU'RE DOWN ABOUT LOSING YOUR PRECIOUS GIRL-FRIEND...

HARUKI ...

HI, REINA.



AND
THEN,
RIGHT
BEHIND
HER...

WHEN TOMI,
WHO CAN
SENSE
SPIRITS,
TOLD US
GHOST
STORIES,
HE'D
BREAK
DOWN IN
TEARS.

MAKE IT
STOP!!

WAA
A
A
A



YOU
CAN'T
GO
ON?

HARUKI
USED
TO GET
SCARED
BY THE
LAMEST
HAUNTED
HOUSES.



BUMP

C'MON.



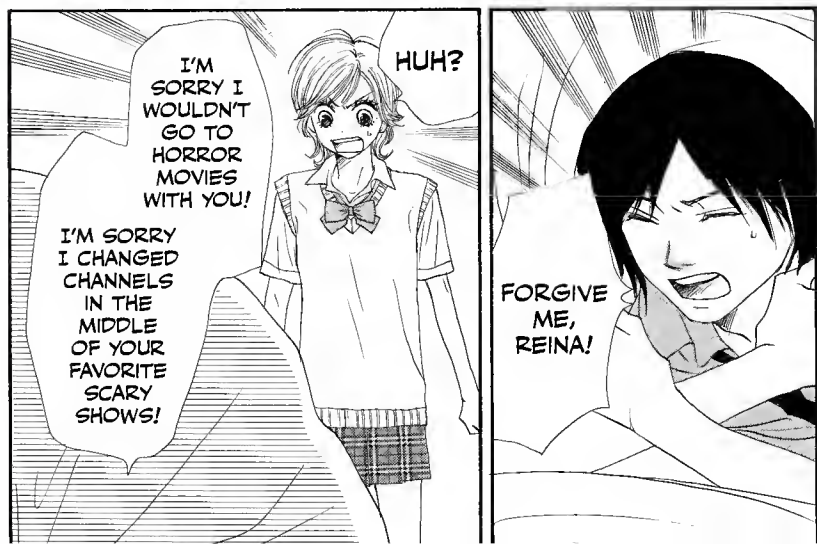
HOW
LONG
ARE YOU
GONNA
STAY LIKE
THAT?



MORE
THAN
ANY-
THING
ELSE...

...HE WAS
TERRIFIED
OF
GHOSTS.

...





AREN'T YOU
HERE TO
HAUNT ME
BECAUSE
YOU'RE
TICKED OFF
AT ME?

...



AND ALL
THOSE
TIMES I
FREAKED
OUT AT
HAUNTED
HOUSES
AND
STUFF...I'M
SORRY!

WHAT
THE HECK
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?



HAUNT
YOU?

...

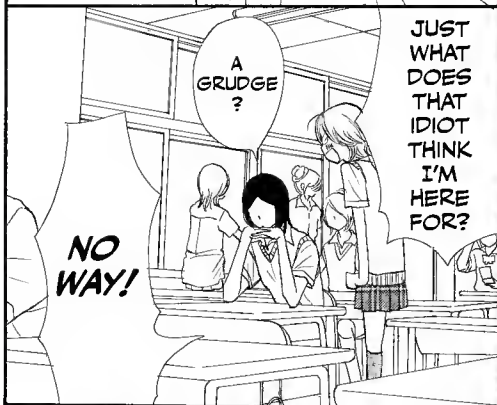


I'M
HERE TO
SCARE
YOU TO
DEATH...

YOU'RE
RIGHT.



I CAME
BACK
BECAUSE
I WANTED
TO SEE
YOU!



A
GRUDGE
?

JUST
WHAT
DOES
THAT
IDIOT
THINK
I'M
HERE
FOR?

NO
WAY!

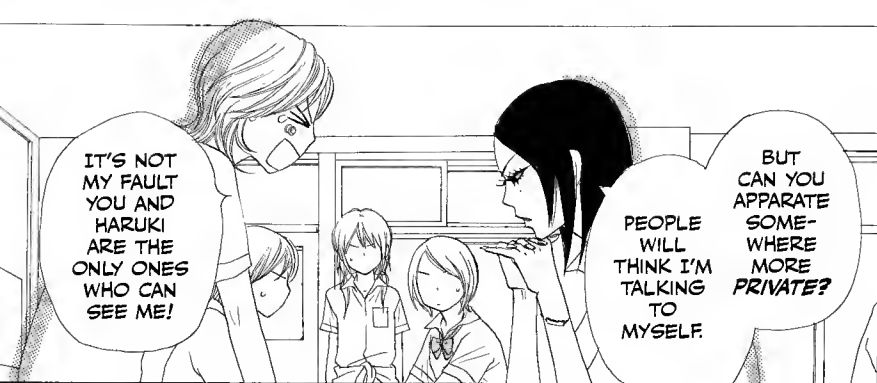


IF I
HATED HIM,
WHY'D I GO
OUT WITH
HIM FOR A
YEAR? HUH?

POINT.



AS IF,
YOU
DOPE!



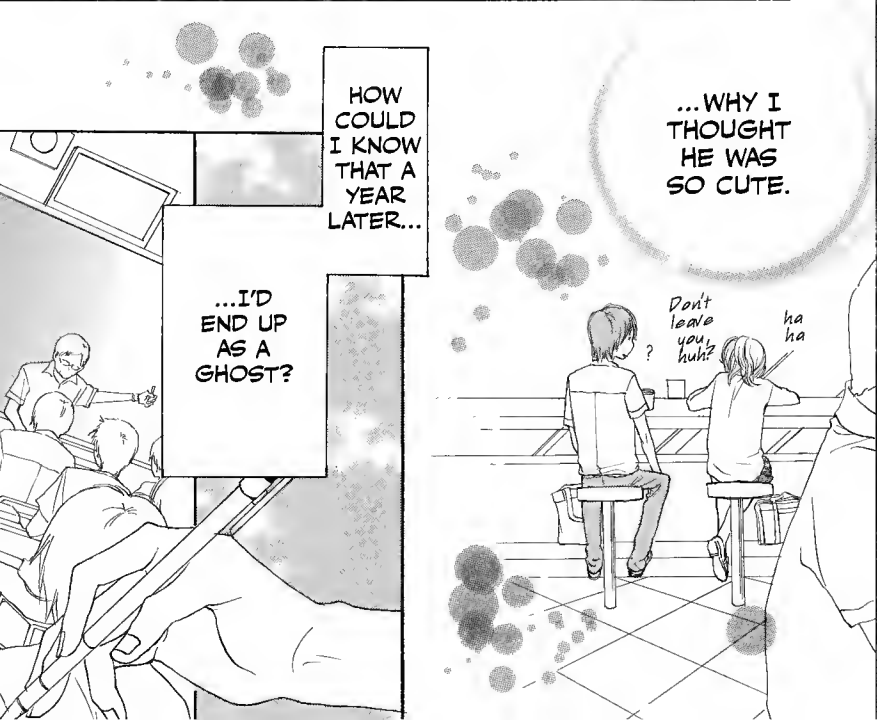




IT'S
EASY
TO
SEE...

PLEASE
DON'T
DUMP
ME!

I'LL BE
GREAT
IN EVERY
OTHER
WAY!



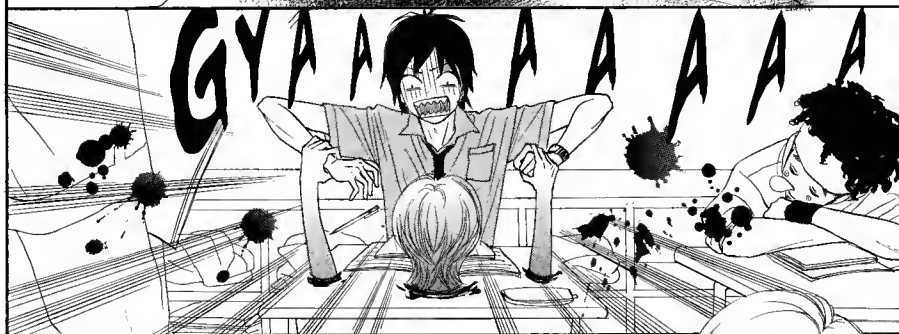
HOW
COULD
I KNOW
THAT A
YEAR
LATER...

...I'D
END UP
AS A
GHOST?

...WHY I
THOUGHT
HE WAS
SO CUTE.

Don't
leave
you,
huh?

ha
ha



IF I
DIDN'T
GRAB
YOU,
YOU'D
RUN
OFF!

AND
IT
GIVES
ME
THE
CREEPS
WHEN
YOU
GRAB
ME
WITH
YOUR
GHOST-Y
HANDS!

DON'T
POP
UP
LIKE
THAT!

WHAT
THE
HECK?

...



YEAH,
ME
TOO!

I
KNOW!

LOOK!

I GOT
RUN
OVER BY
A CAR,
OKAY?
I'M IN
SHOCK!



OH?

WHAT
DO
YOU
WANT?



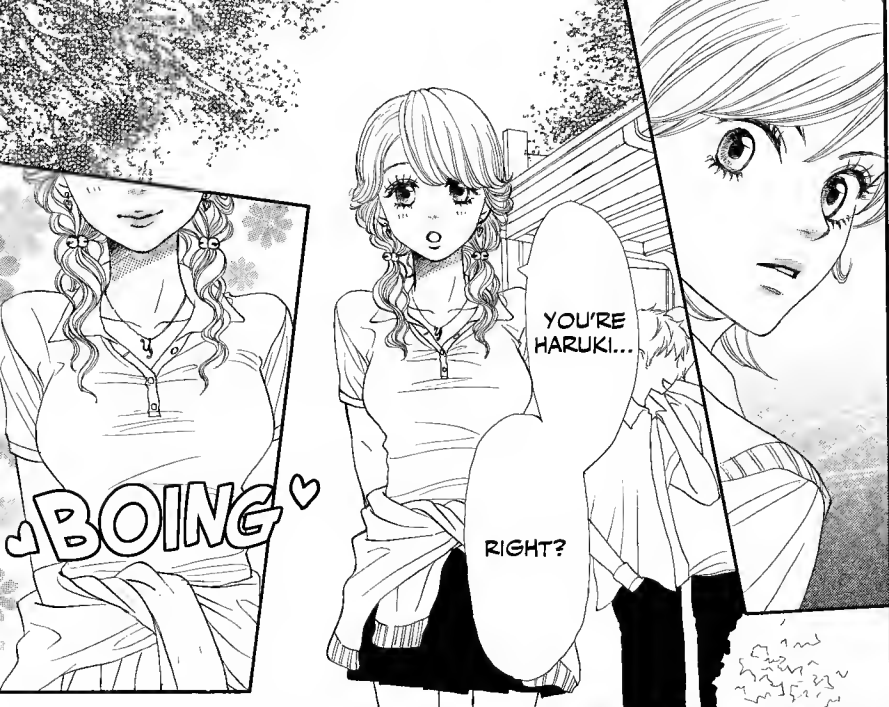
ONE
LAST...

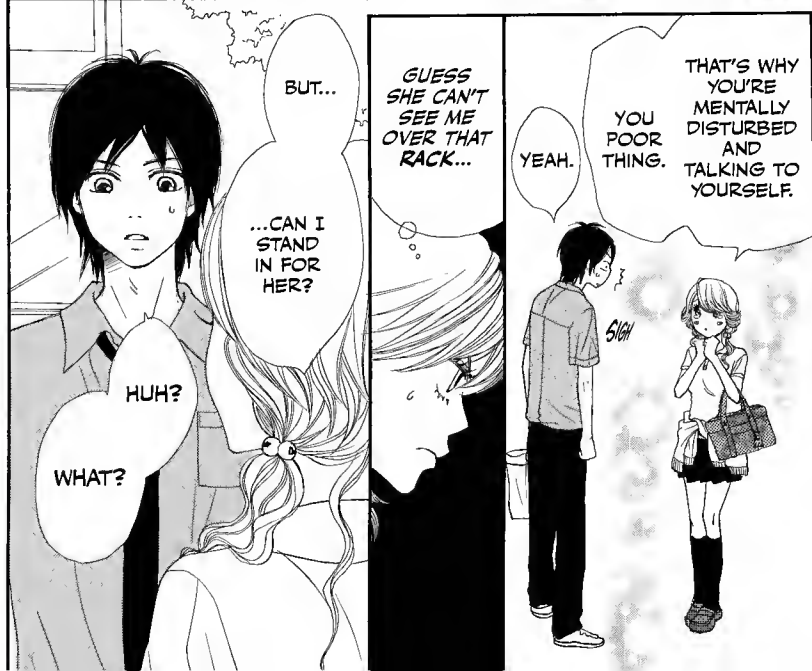
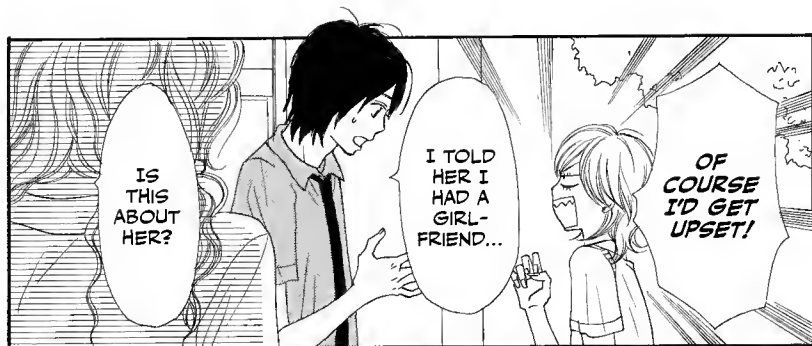
I WANTED
TO SAY
GOODBYE
ONE LAST
TIME.



THAT'S
WHY...









Well, we're almost to the end. At least I didn't have to write this bonus story in Kansai dialect. I hope you enjoy it.

Anyway, looks like we made it through Volume 12. Thank you! Heh...

I look forward to seeing you in Volume 13.

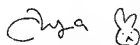


I guess it doesn't look much like a rabbit, huh?



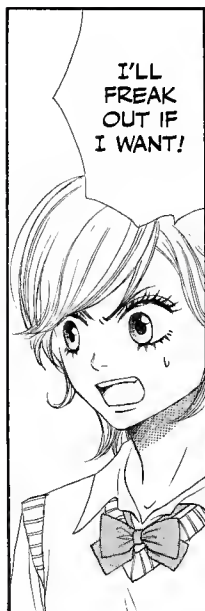
Bunnyling of Joytoy

See you next time!



November 2005





I'LL
FREAK
OUT IF
I WANT!



GEEZ,
DON'T
FREAK
OUT.

I'M
NOT
GONNA
LET
THIS
HAPPEN
!!



**NO NO
NO NO!
ABSOLUTELY
NOT!**



I WAS
DIFFERENT,
WASN'T I?

THAT'S
NOT
ALWAYS
TRUE!!!



THAT'S
HOW IT'S
ALWAYS
BEEN WITH
ME AND
GIRLS.

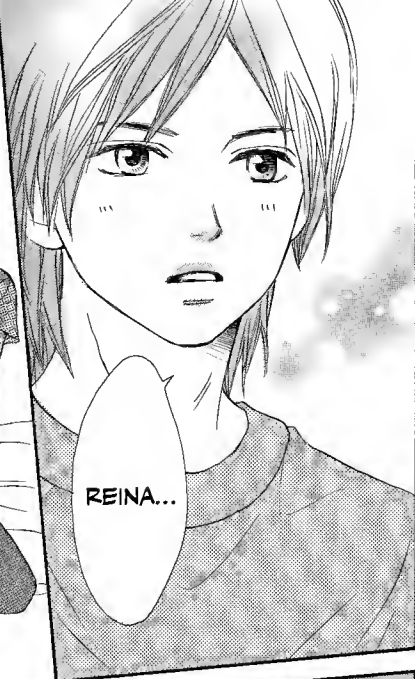


ONCE SHE
FIGURES
OUT WHAT A
WUSS I AM,
SHE'LL
DROP ME
LIKE A HOT
POTATO.



WHAT IF
I TOOK
YOUR
GIRL-
FRIEND'S
PLACE?

NO
FREAKIN'
WAY.



REINA...



HE'D
GO
CRAZY
OVER
HER!!

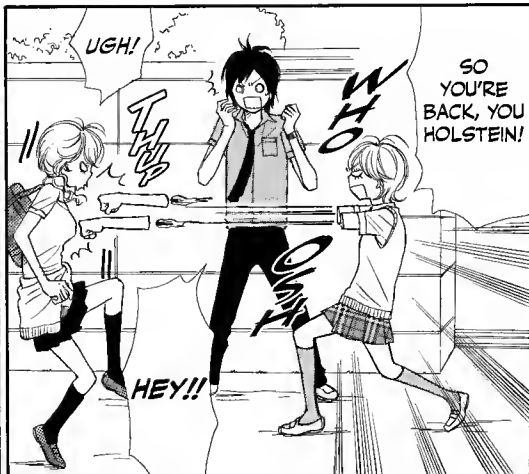


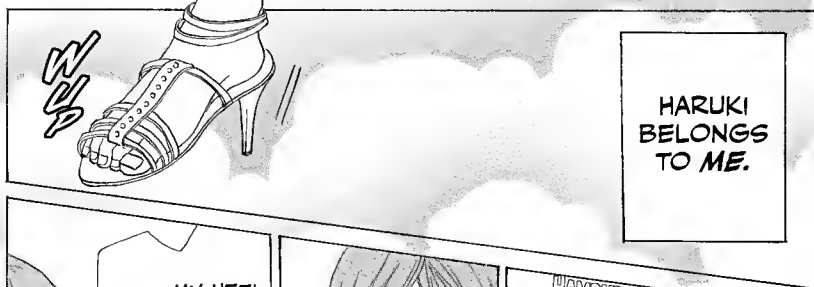
Oh boy,
boobs!

HI,
HARUKI!

I'LL
NEVER
ACCEPT
MILK JUGS
AS MY
REPLACE-
MENT.

HE'D...





HARUKI
BELONGS
TO ME.



MY HEEL
BROKE!

WHAT'LL
I DO?



ARE
YOU
OKAY?

AW,
NUTS!



OOPS!

WHOA!



I'LL
CARRY
YOU
TO THE
SHOE
STORE.

WHAT?

ARE
YOU
OUT
OF IT?



HOP
ON!

SHOO?

HUH?





I'M NOT
GONNA
LET
ANYONE
COME
BETWEEN
US.





OH,
WE
CAN'T,
CAN
WE?

COME
ON!



DON'T
WORRY.
THERE'S
NO SUCH
THING!

AND
EVEN IF
THERE
WERE
GHOSTS,
THEY
COULDN'T
HURT
PEOPLE.



HIS
EX?

I
BOUGHT
THESE
TODAY!



HERE!

LET ME
HELP YOU
CHEER UP
AND FORGET
ABOUT
YOUR EX!

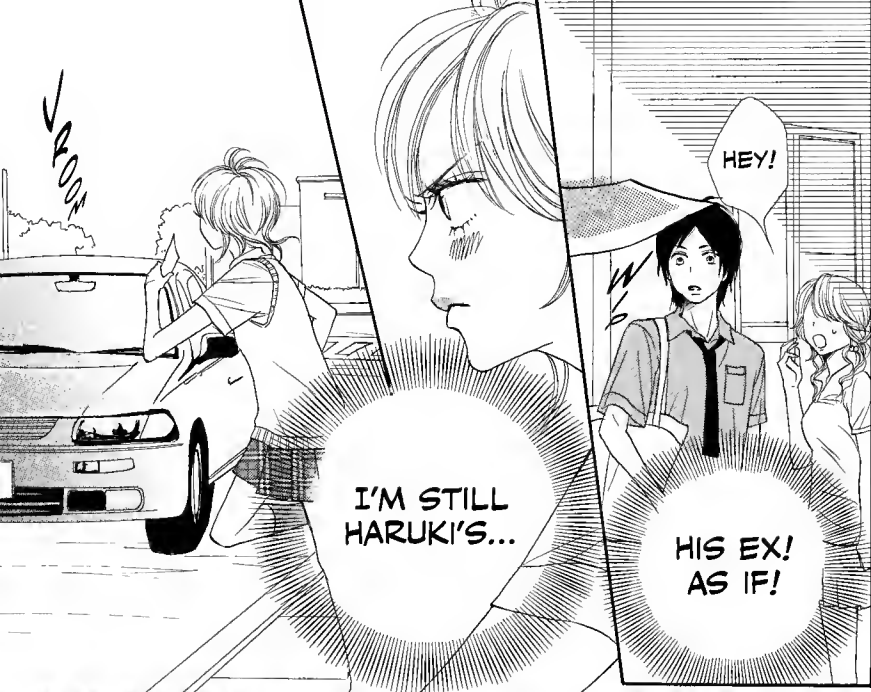


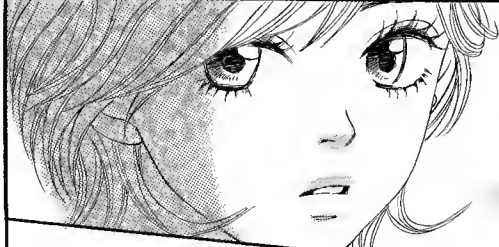
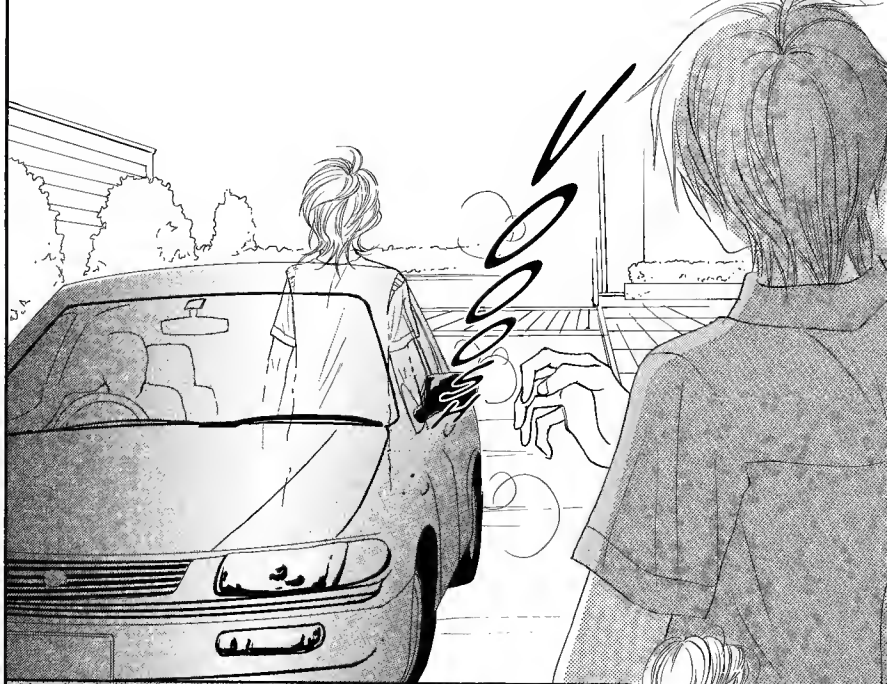
HOW
ABOUT
IT?
SUNDAY?



WHAT'S
THIS?

TICKETS
TO THE
AMUSE-
MENT
PARK.







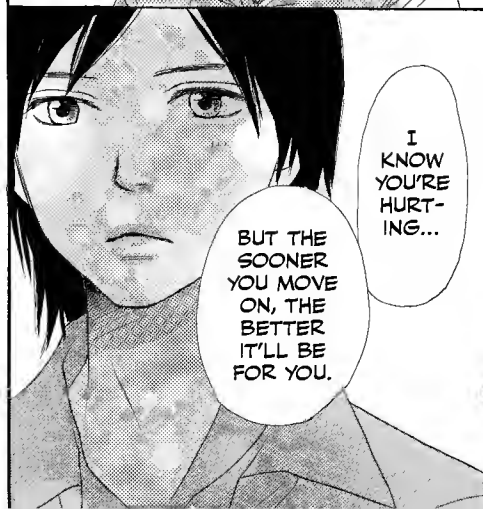
IS REINA
YOUR
EX-GIRL-
FRIEND?

SAY,
HARUKI.



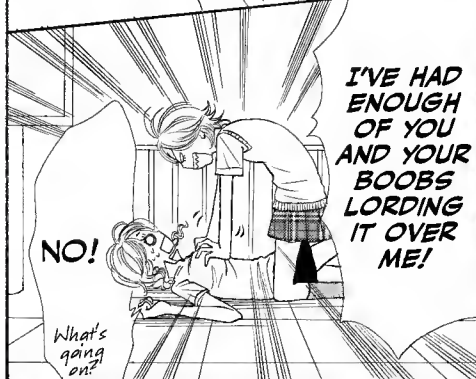
...COME
BACK
TO YOU.

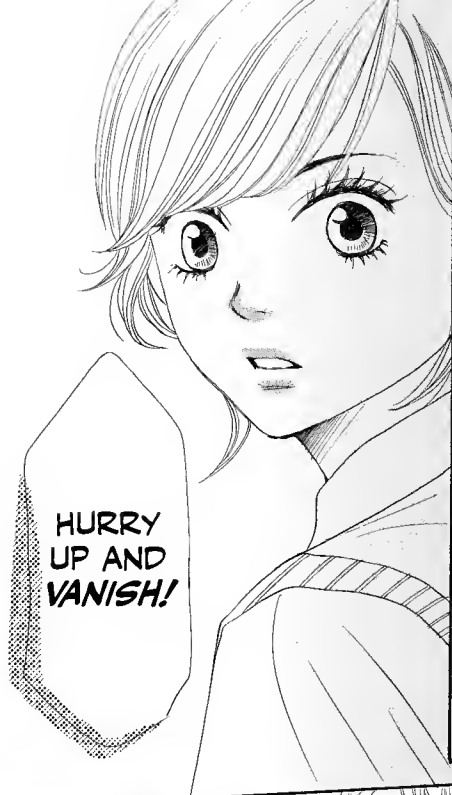
SHE
CAN'T...



BUT THE
SOONER
YOU MOVE
ON, THE
BETTER
IT'LL BE
FOR YOU.

I
KNOW
YOU'RE
HURT-
ING...



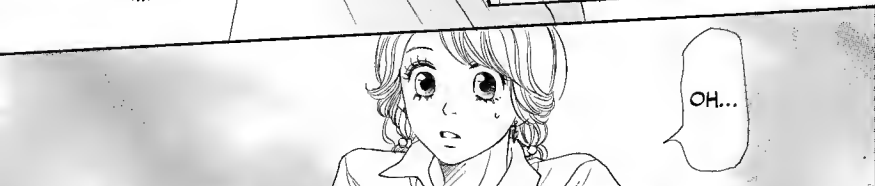


HURRY
UP AND
VANISH!



ENOUGH
ALREADY!

AREN'T
YOU
SATISFIED
YET?



OH...



REALLY?

THANKS
FOR
THE
TICKET,
YUKARI.

I'D
REALLY
LIKE
TO GO.



SORRY...

IT'S
NOT
YOU.

I'M
SORRY,
YUKARI...



HURRY
UP AND
VANISH!



WHAT
DID HE
JUST
SAY?



HARUKI
...

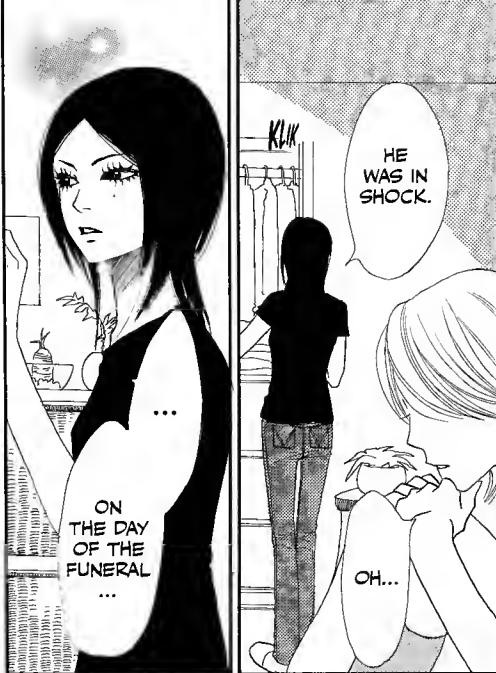
HOW
WAS HE
WHEN I
DIED?

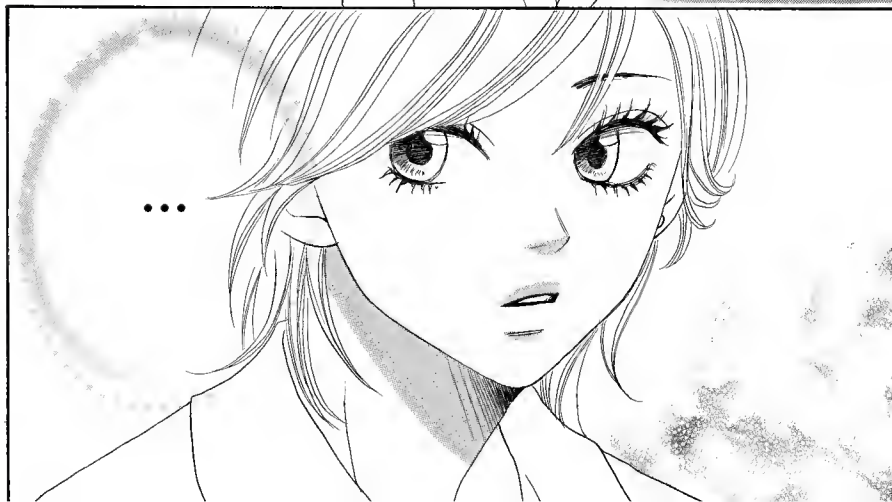
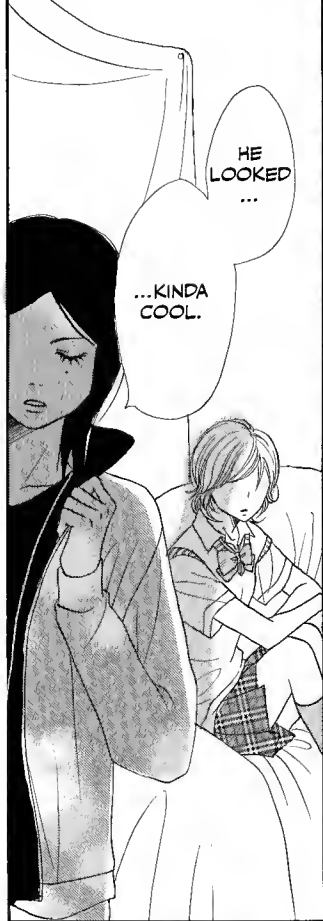


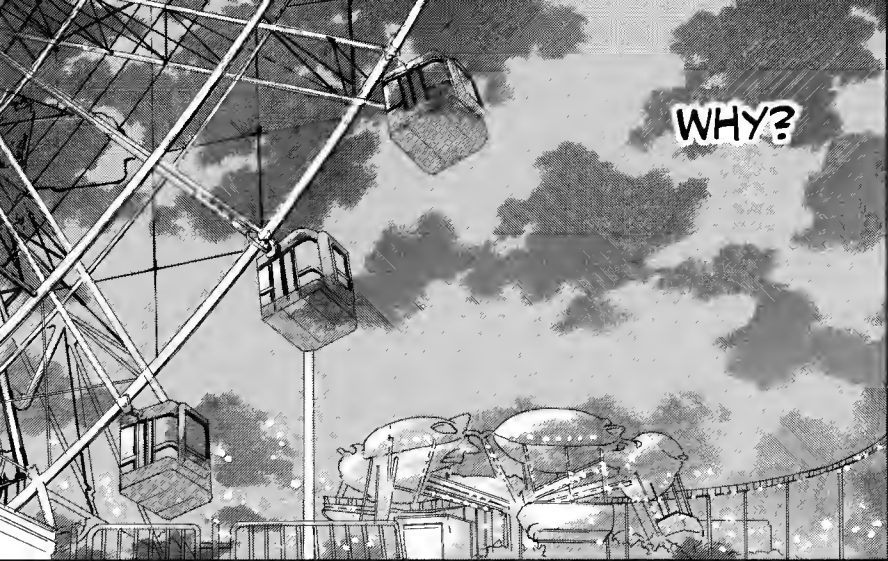
SAY...



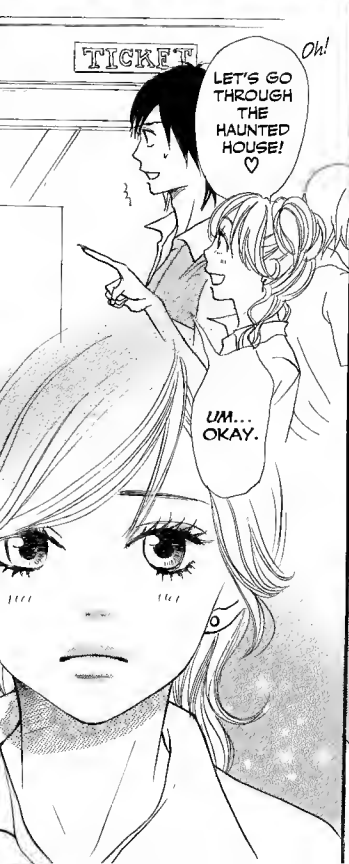
THAT'S
COLD.







WHY?



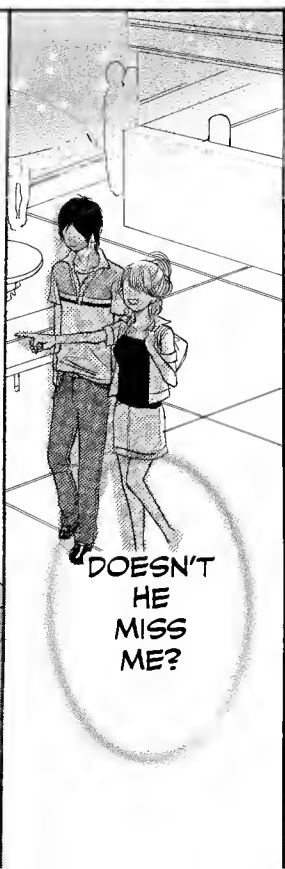
TICKET

Oh!
LET'S GO
THROUGH
THE
HAUNTED
HOUSE!
♡

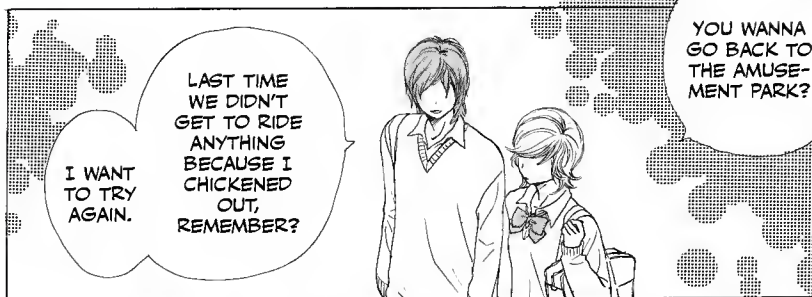
UM...
OKAY.



AM I
DEAD
TO
HIM?



DOESN'T
HE
MISS
ME?



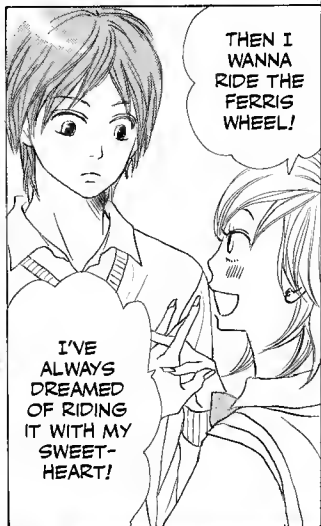
I WANT
TO TRY
AGAIN.

LAST TIME
WE DIDN'T
GET TO RIDE
ANYTHING
BECAUSE I
CHICKENED
OUT,
REMEMBER?

YOU WANNA
GO BACK TO
THE AMUSE-
MENT PARK?



WOW!
LOOK!
SO
PRETTY!



THEN I
WANNA
RIDE THE
FERRIS
WHEEL!

I'VE
ALWAYS
DREAMED
OF RIDING
IT WITH MY
SWEET-
HEART!



BUT...

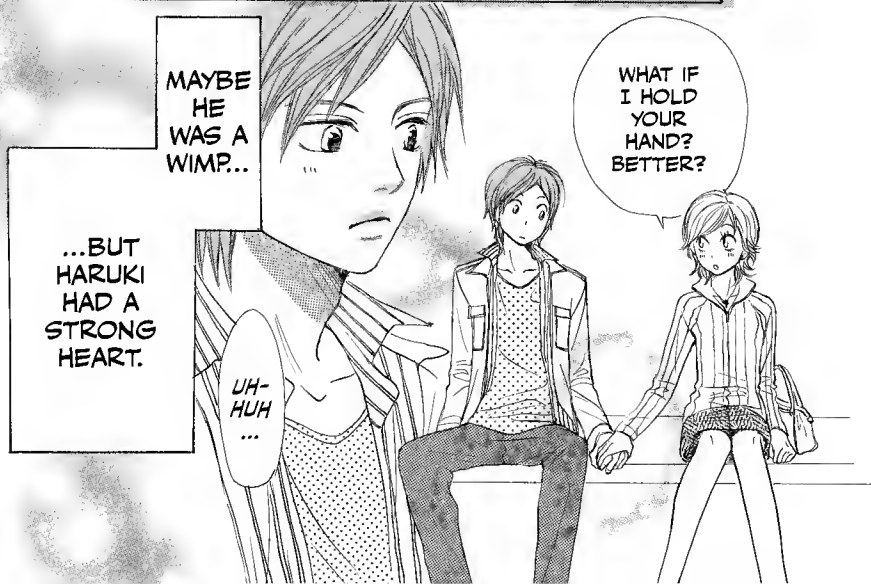
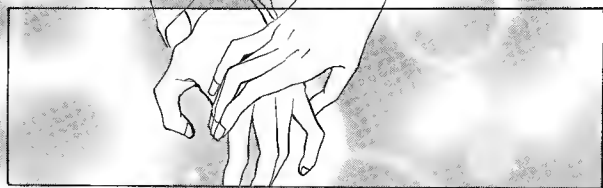
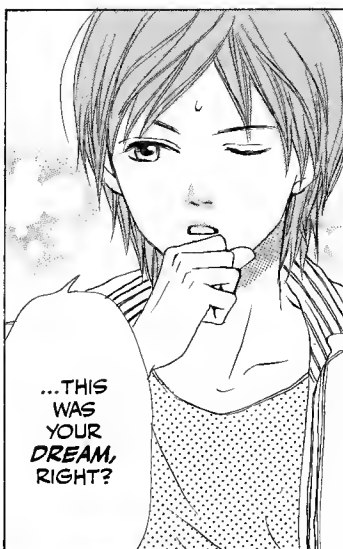
YOU
SHOULD'VE
SAID
SOME-
THING!

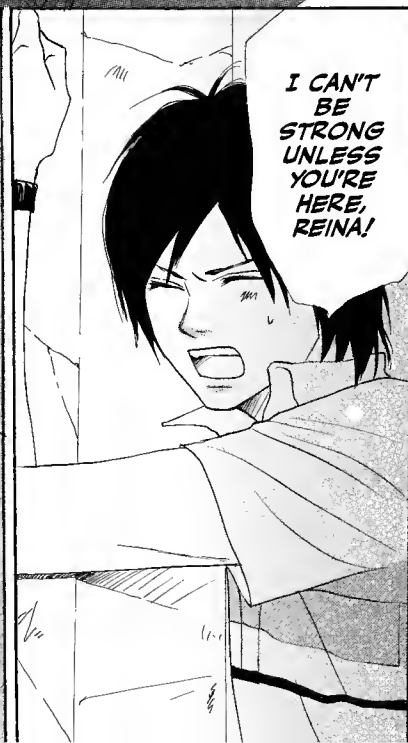
WHAT?

I...
I'M
AFRAID
OF
HEIGHTS.



WHAT'S
THE
MATTER,
HARUKI?

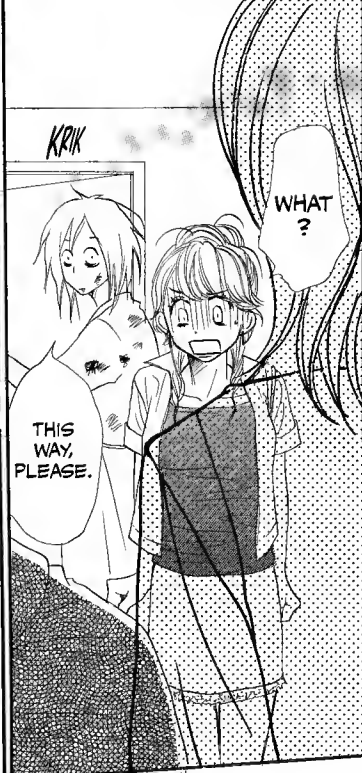






I'M NOT
HIS GIRL-
FRIEND!
I DON'T
EVEN
KNOW
HIM!

YOUR
GIRL-
FRIEND
TOO.



WHAT
?

THIS
WAY,
PLEASE.



HARUKI.

Huh?

NO
WAY!

THIS
IS SO
LAME!



WHAT
ARE YOU
SAYING?

REINA!

WE
CAN'T BE
TOGETHER
ANYMORE.

REINA!









HARUKI,
I WISH
I COULD
STAY WITH
YOU
LONGER.

BUT...

...I
DON'T
WANT
TO KEEP
SCARING
YOU.



I WAS
ALWAYS
SO RUDE
TO YOU...
AND
SELFISH...
AND
JEALOUS...

GEEZ...



I'M
SORRY I
SUCKED
SO
MUCH!

DON'T
SAY
THAT! I
LOVED
THAT
ABOUT
YOU!

REALLY?



REINA!

SHU

I HAVE
TO GO.

I'M
DEAD
NOW.



I
REALLY
LOVE
YOU.

MY LAST
WORDS...

I
FORGOT
TO GIVE
YOU
SOME
LAST
WORDS.

THANK
YOU FOR
EVERY-
THING.

GOOD-
BYE.



BYE-
BYE,
HARUKI.





...I'LL BE
A STAR IN
THE SKY
WATCHING
OVER YOU...

...SO
YOU
DON'T
HAVE
TO BE
AFRAID.

FROM
NOW
ON...



《The End》

glossary

Page 49, panel 1: Kappa

Kappa are water sprites in Japanese folklore. Cucumbers are their favorite food—in fact, kappamaki sushi rolls are named for these creatures.

Page 69, panel 4: Don't touch my head

Kappa carry water in depressions on their heads, which is their source of strength. If the water spills, they become weak and may even die.

Page 70, panel 3: Ronin

When a student fails to get into a college, he or she will often take a year off to study and try again. These students are known as *ronin*. (Masterless samurai are also known as *ronin*.)

Page 96, panel 5: Bean sprout

Because bean sprouts grow where the sun doesn't shine, Suzuki's sister is saying that he stays inside all the time, which makes him weak.

Page 115, panel 5: Radish sprout

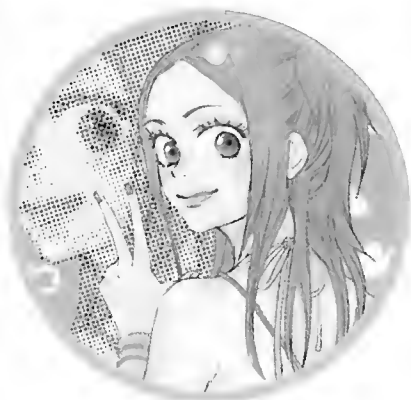
Radish sprouts also grow where the sun doesn't shine, so this is another way for Suzuki's sister to imply he is weak.

Page 118, panel 2: Yowao Hosokawa

Yowao is spelled with the kanji for "weak boy," and the character for *Hoso* is also the character for *hosoi* which means "skinny"—hence Risa and Ōtani's reaction.

Page 151, sidebar: Bunnyling of Joytoy

Yinling of Joytoy is a Taiwanese model who is often photographed for Japanese men's magazines with her legs spread wide.



Thanks to all you guys for supporting *Love★Com*. It looks like it's going to be made into a live-action movie!

The news has been trickling in very slowly for a while now. I've been listening in a daze, like it's happening to someone else. I mean, seriously, a movie based on something I wrote? Me? I've been living off yakisoba noodles and eggs over rice. I guess I'll try to eat better and keep working hard on my manga.

Aya Nakahara won the 2003 Shogakukan Manga Award for her breakthrough hit *Love★Com*, which was made into a major motion picture and a PS2 game in 2006. She debuted with *Haru to Kuki Nichiyō-bi* in 1995, and her other works include *HANADA* and *Himitsu Kichi*.

LOVE★COM VOL 12

The Shaja Beat Manga Edition



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Publisher/Hyoe Narita

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Printed in the U.S.A.

Published by VIZ Media, LLC

P.O. Box 77010

San Francisco, CA 94107

Shojo Beat Manga Edition

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

First printing, May 2009

